Chichester HERALD

Friday 10th January 2014
YOUR FREE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
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INSIDE



Bosham had more weirdness per head than anywhere else
TOMMY BOYD
Page 4



Win tickets to see American Hustle
COMPETITION
Page 24



The best health enhancing detox foods!
HEALTH & BEAUTY
Page 28

Council's money washed away

>> *Pagham community at risk from serious flooding*

Dean Adams
NEWS@CHICHESTERHERALD.CO.UK

PAGHAM BEACH has been cordoned off after strong tides damaged recently completed sea defences

Solent Coastguard said flood defences at Pagham Beach, near Chichester, had been breached just three weeks after being built and part of the shingle bank washed away.

Sections of the £600,000 shingle and boulder barrier have collapsed in the last week putting seafront homes at serious risk of flooding.

People have been urged to keep away from the area which is very dangerous, a spokesman said.

Arun council was responsible for the sea defence which was completed in December, the Environment Agency said.

"The safety message from all the agencies is that this is a hazardous area and there is no reason for members of the public to be down there," a coastguard spokesman said.

Large areas of the shingle bank and large boulders which all formed part of the flood defence scheme, had been washed away over the past week causing something of a media frenzy earlier this week as both the BBC and ITV Meridian followed proceedings with live reports.

Harbour Road, Lagoon Road and West Front Road had all been closed by Sussex Police on Sunday morning because of danger and coastal flooding.

Continued on page 3



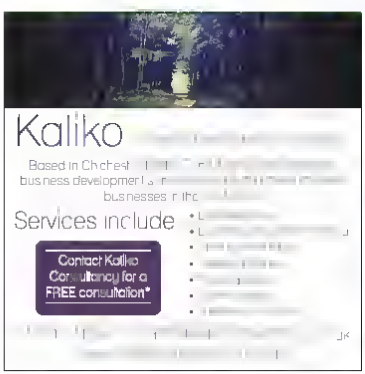
The new sea defence which was built three weeks ago is now collapsing (Photo courtesy of 'Save Pagham Beach' Facebook)

MORE HEADLINES >>

MORE THAN 170 PEOPLE COULD BE BANNED FOR DRINK OR DRUG-DRIVING Page 3

SUSSEX MAN DENIES MURDER Page 8

VALERIE GRAVES MURDER: BREAK IN AT BOSHAM HOUSE FAKED Page 12







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Pagham community at risk from serious flooding

Continued from page 1

The Environment Agency said the Pagham community was at risk from flooding both from the open coast and from within the harbour.

It said it had not received any reports of coastal flooding affecting any properties in the past few weeks.

"Our defences within Pagham Harbour have performed as expected and prevented flooding to approximately 88 properties in Pagham village," an Environment Agency spokeswoman said.

"The ongoing prolonged period of stormy weather has caused increased erosion along the entire south coast. We are aware that the rock revetment at Pagham Beach has suffered some damage."

The Environment Agency said the revetment – a barrier that absorbs wave energy – was completed in early December and was the responsibility of Arun District Council which would carry out repairs.

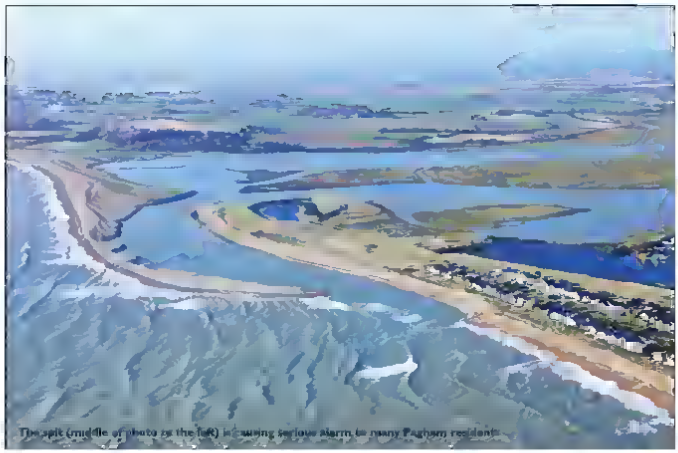
The agency said it contributed funds for the defence and would continue to work closely with the authority.

The 'Save Pagham Beach' Facebook page commented on Tuesday, "It's been yet another busy morning here on the beach. The contractors started filling the hole at the western end of the revetment at 8.00am. We also had a visit from Councillor Paul Dandle, whose opinion about the revetment needing just 'minor repairs' was swiftly changed when he witnessed rocks plunging into the channel. There's just been another collapse, and the contractors are saying that the only way to proceed is to block the channel off to prevent further undermining, and allow them to carry out repairs."

Allen Miller, whose garden opens on to the beach, said he could not sleep at night for worrying about what would happen to his home.

Mr Miller said the new defences finished half way across the front of his property, which was now directly in the path of the waves.

"When we first moved here 11-and a half years ago it was a lovely place to be but it has got extremely dangerous now."



The spit (middle of photo on the left) is causing serious alarm to many Pagham residents

Many residents are demanding a channel is cut through the ever growing spit, which they believe will help the problems. But Councillors say this won't ease the problems and the option is also too expensive, preferring to see many thousands of pounds of 'quick fixes' not working and being washed away.

Let us know what you think @Chiherald

More than 170 people could be banned for drink or drug-driving

MORE THAN 170 people could be banned from the roads after they were arrested as part of a crackdown on drink-drivers in West Sussex.

A total of 120 people have been charged with drink or drug-related driving offences since December 1 when Sussex Police began its annual Christmas campaign to make the roads safer.

A further 52 people have been arrested during the month before being released on bail while officers carry out further inquiries.

The arrests have followed officers testing more than 4,000 motorists for drink or drugs after accidents or having stopped their vehicles.

The number of arrests in our area are as follows:

Arun

- Driving a vehicle whilst unfit through drugs – 1
- Driving a motor vehicle when alcohol level is above the limit – 17
- Failing to provide a specimen for analysis – 2
- Being drunk in charge of a motor vehicle – 1

Chichester

- Driving a vehicle whilst unfit through drugs – 1
- Driving a motor vehicle when alcohol level is above the limit – 14
- Failing to provide a specimen for analysis – 1

Chief Inspector Natalie Moloney said: "I'm very disappointed that so many people ignored our messages and decided to risk their lives and the lives of other people by drink driving or drug driving.

"The fact that 21 people were arrested on suspicion of driving after taking drugs confirms my view that it is not just drink driving that must be tackled in Sussex to make the roads safer for everyone.

"Magistrates have shown in the cases that have been dealt with so far that they will ban offenders from the roads and fine them as well.

"I expect to see plenty more motorists banned from driving by the courts because of their selfish behaviour during the campaign which will affect not just them but their families, friends and businesses."

Anorak Corner

Interesting snippets of information about Chichester

Over 40 historic buildings from south-east England have been rescued from destruction, dismantled and reconstructed on the site of the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton, near Goodwood.



Tweets of the Week

All tweets are from Chichester people or about the area (Some tweets may contain errors) **Let us know what you think @Chiherald**

@IsabelAshdown
Lots of fallen trees on one walk at Charlton after recent high winds Roll on Springtime #Chichester #WestSnssex

@BarryKillnerEA
We're out through the night again checking water levels and clearing grills #RiverLavant #Chichester #westsussex

@naBowles1
Always bump into everyone I know in Chichester when I'm in a rush to get somewhere

@Discover_Chi
Are you enjoying @BBCStargazing? Then check out @slowsplanet #Chichester foe planetarium experience and fascinating talks by Dr John Mason

@MurraysChi
Fish and chips is traditional today due to Roman Catholics not eating meat on Fridays. #factoftheday #chichester

@ParkTavernChi
Love the BBC saying 'Stay away from the sea and adverse weather conditions' Then And d you've got any pictures, send them to us!

@beachwitterings
Gales at #westwittering last night. Sea walls damaged House shaking Tide coming in #BattenDownTheHatches

@Bracklesham
Will the Co op get permission to change East Wittering foresee? Who is in favour of their plans to demolish The Royal Oak? #SaveOurVillage

@annepimmerart
Sketching the reflections in Birdham Pool as too windy to paint!

@BBCSussex
"We do like the sea but we don't want it in our lounge" #Pagham resident talking to BBC Sussex the morning

Bosham had more weirdness per head than anywhere she'd seen




Left over Christmas nuts

BOSHAM

I moved to Bosham from Brighton in 1990, and always suspected there was more to it than met the eye. I'm not talking about the teagie murdee. I'm talking about the Bosham hmm. Not the tinkey trot smell you get end of summee when the farmers manure their soil. I'm talking about the ineessant military whine yon hear every few months through the night. It starts aftee midnight and endures until at least 2.00am.

X FILES

I'm interested in the supernatural, who isn't? Just aftee we moved to Bosham I was having a pint in the absuedly wonderful Anchor Bleu and got talking to a big American woman who was a guest at one of the many affluent Bosharnites. She was a writer. She outlined a script she was working on foe The X Files (remembee that?) about spontaneous combustion where people and things burst into flames. Set in Bosham. She said it was a known phenomenon in Bosham. She also said that Bosham had more weirdness pee head than anywhere she'd seen and she lived in Los Angeles.

FLOODING

The flooding is not so bad along Chichester's bit of coast as it is in Dorset, for example, but it still must be a worry. We went down to East Wittering just to wave watch. There were big rocks thrown up onto the road. Men just stood there transfixed by boiling ocean. Naturally we didn't get too close.

JANUARY

Everyone's least favourite month. Really one forefathers planned badly. Why nothing from New Year until Valentine's Day? As a proud one quartee Scot, I have Burns night coming up.

SCOTTISHNESS

When Eusebio died it was recalled in the press that Nobby Stiles "nullified" him in the World Cup semi. Cue letters from outraged Scots claiming he should have been sent off all those years ago. Wasn't it Wodehouse who said it is never difficult to distinguish between a Scotsman with a grievance and a ray of sunshine?

GRUMPS

I thought it was just me who was noticing that oldee people are getting grumpier. A shopkeeper who thanked me foe telling off a grumpy eldedy customer said they had noticed it too.

FESTIVE REMNANTS

We still have a lonely half jar of mincemeat in the larder, and a tin of stuffed olives. And a bowl of nuts in their shells on the sideboard.

SUPERCHEAP MARKETS

I hear that the man behind easyJet is planning a chain of bargain priee supeemarkets. They will only sell 100 "essentials" sneh as tea, lett rolls, pasta and tinned tomatoes. And each item will have a 50p priee tag. The idea is you use eash to buy eredit on a store card, there'll somehow be no eashiers. And the shops will only be open fne 6 hours a day, to cut oveeheads.

FREE MARKETS

Why can't the Electricity and Gas Industries be shaken up by similar cutthroat taetics?

JOKE

Why are dogs bad daneers? Because they have two left feet.

Contact Tommy: ✉ *tommy.boyd@chichesterherald.co.uk*
Follow Tommy on *@TheTommyBoyd*

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Twitter: @chiherald
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Springtime Gardens of Cornwall

Following many requests, we visit the wonderful 3-star family run, Rosemundy Hotel in April to visit your favourite gardens in full bloom with camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons and yellow flowering magnolias. We have also included Caerhays Castle and Gardens, Trewithen House and Gardens and the Lost Gardens of Heligan, as well as scenic drives around some of the wonderful coastal and countryside scenery of the region.

Trewithen House

Price includes:
- Luxury Coach Travel - Door to Door Service
- Half Board - Caerhays Castle & Gardens
- Lost Gardens of Heligan - Trewithen House & Gardens
- Excursions as Listed in the Brochure

10 April 2014 7 Days



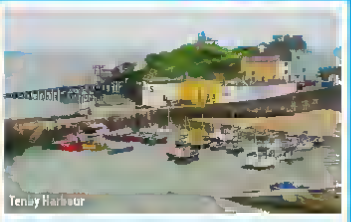
Bannockburn & Robert the Bruce

2014 is the time to visit Scotland, 700 years after King Robert the Bruce defeated the Plantagenet King Edward II at the Battle of Bannockburn. We spend a day at a truly unique event celebrating the victory with a re-enactment and a whole variety of performances, activities, food stalls and crafts with plenty to taste, smell, hear and discover in medieval life. We visit Stirling, Perth and the Palace at Scone, where Robert was twice crowned, as well as our present Queen's favourite vessel, the Royal Yacht Britannia at her moorings in Edinburgh.

Scone Palace

Price Includes:
- Luxury Coach Travel - Door to Door Service - Half Board
- Harlaw Heritage Arboretum - Deawsle Mill
- Royal Yacht Britannia - Scone Palace - Bannockburn Live
- Excursions as Listed in the Brochure

28 June 2014 7 Days



Wales – Grand Coastal Tour

This new two-centre tour for 2014 (staying at Criccieth and Carmarthen) takes you to the north, south and west coasts of Wales. We tour the Isle of Anglesey in the north and the dramatic coastline of the Gower and Pembrokeshire in the south. We join the two walks day (amazing scenery as we travel down the coast) via Cadnant Pass. During our adventure we visit Pembroke Castle and travel on the wonderful Welsh Highland Railway through the wild mountains of Snowdonia.

Tenby Harbour

Price includes:
- Luxury Coach Travel - Door to Door Service
- Half Board - Gower Peninsula Guide
- Pembroke Castle - Welsh Highland Railway
- Excursions as Listed in the Brochure

25 July 2014 8 Days

Snowdrop Special



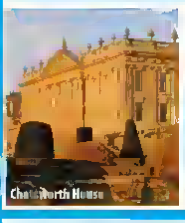
On this tour we visit Rococo Gardens and Wellford Park, which in January and February show off amazing bonfires of fragrant winter snowdrops. We also take in the Roman city of Bath with a guided tour and free time for your own sightseeing. With our single travellers in mind, we have managed to secure many solus rooms.

Price includes:
- Luxury Coach Travel - Door to Door Service
- Half Board - Rococo Gardens
- Guided Tour in Bath - Wellford Park
- Excursions as Listed in our Brochure

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

10 February 2014 - 4 Days

Easter in the Peaks



For Easter we return to this wonderful Shrigley Hall for a tour into the Peak District National Park. We return to Chatsworth House, but also visit Biddulph Grange Gardens and Little Morton Hall and some of the delightful Derbyshire villages.

Chatsworth House

Price includes:
- Luxury Coach Travel - Door to Door Service
- Half Board - Chatsworth House
- Biddulph Grange Garden
- Little Morton Hall
- National Memorial Arboretum
- Excursions as Listed in our Brochure

18 April 2014 - 5 Days

Keukenhof & Dutch Flower Parade



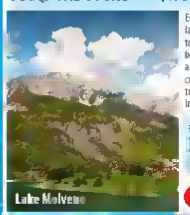
We visit Holland at the very best time - when this spectacular floral parade travels from Noordwijk to Haarlem with around 20 impressively decorated floats, entertainment and marching bands. We also visit the Keukenhof Gardens, which offer this visitor 70 acres of colourful splendour, and take a cruise on the Kaagerr Lakes.

Keukenhof

Price includes:
- Luxury Coach Travel - Door to Door Service
- Half Board - Keukenhof Gardens
- Kaagerr Lakes Cruise
- Excursions as Listed in our Brochure

2 May 2014 - 4 Days

Lake Molveno & The Italian Dolomites



Enjoying a sheltered location this charming lakeside town of Molveno is a great alternative to the busier Italian lakes and is a wonderful base from which to explore this region. As well as many scenic drives through the dramatic countryside, we visit Verona, Riva del Garda, travel through the Austrian Tyrol and have time in Switzerland at the beautiful resort of Davos.

Lake Molveno

Price includes:
- Luxury Coach Travel - Door to Door Service
- Half Board - Verona Guided Tour
- Excursions as Listed in our Brochure

30 May 2014 - 10 Days

Ypres Passchendaele & Memories of WW I



This tour takes in the main battlefront where more than 250 000 British and Commonwealth soldiers lost their lives. Our base in Ypres allows us to attend the service in which each night at 8pm the Last Post is played to commemorate the 55 000 men who were never found.

Ypres Memorial Gate

Price includes:
- Luxury Coach Travel - Door to Door Service
- Bed & Breakfast
- In Flanders Field Museum - Talbot House
- Passchendaele Museum
- Excursions as Listed in our Brochure

14 July 2014 - 4 Days

Autumn Colours of Celtic Carlow



We visit County Carlow as the leaves turn to red and gold and have time in Carlow, Kilkenny, Dublin and make the most of the autumn colour at the JFK Arboretum. With plenty of room for side use and music and dancing at the excellent 3-star Seven Oaks Hotel.

Dublin

Price includes:
- Luxury Coach Travel - Door to Door Service
- Half Board - Welcome Drink
- Dublin Guided Tour
- Kilkenny Road Train
- JFK Arboretum
- Excursions as Listed in our Brochure

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

12 October 2014 - 6 Days

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Chief Executive to leave West Sussex County Council to leave

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE of West Sussex County Council is to leave and the role is to be axed under plans announced by the authority.

Kieran Stigant, who has worked at the council for 22 years and earns £175,000 a year, will go on 31 January. He will receive a £118,000 redundancy payment as well as a sum agreed for pay in lieu of notice.

A council spokesman said his work would be shared between a chief operating officer and an interim transformation director.

The Conservative-run authority wants to cut £141m in the next four years.

It is anticipated that the interim arrangements will result in a full year effect saving of £25,000 per annum with further savings expected as a result of the leadership structure review.

Council Leader, Louise Goldsmith, said: "Kieran has given twenty-two years of diligent and loyal service to the County Council, three of those as Chief Executive. We are very grateful to him for his tireless commitment to both the Council and to West Sussex."

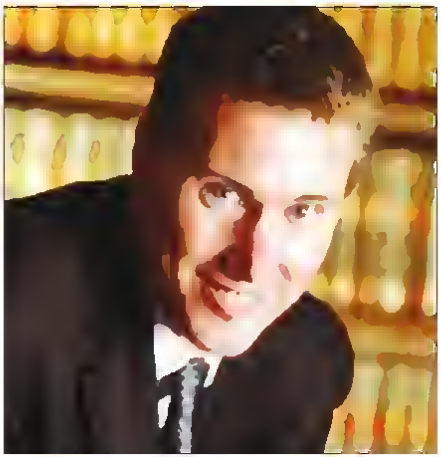
The County Council's Governance Committee will be asked on 20 January 2014 to agree the temporary appointment of a Chief Operating Officer from within the Council's current senior management structure and the appointment of an interim Transformation Director.

The interim Transformation Director will lead the next phase of the transformation work started by Kieran and his colleagues and consider what changes are needed within the County Council to meet the new challenges and opportunities facing it.

These plans mean that the functions of Chief Executive will be shared between the two posts and so the meeting of the Full Council on 14 February 2014 will be asked to confirm the removal of the post of Chief Executive.

The Leader of the Council has written a letter to all County Council employees explaining the reasons for the proposed change (see notes to editors).

A copy of the report to the Governance Committee requesting these changes will be available on the Council's website from today (Friday).



Kieran Stigant is to leave WSCC

A Letter to WSCC staff from Louise Goldsmith said:

"I am writing to you to inform you that Kieran Stigant will be leaving the County Council on 31 January 2014.

This might come as a surprise to many of you. Kieran has worked at the County Council for 22 years and been Chief Executive for the last three. He has been a committed, diligent and loyal chief officer and I have been very grateful for his support and counsel over the eight years that I've been a member of the Cabinet.

As I said at Full Council in mid-December, the Cabinet and I are indebted to the sterling efforts of Kieran and each and every one of you in bringing us successfully through the three year £79million savings programme that we completed this year.

However, Kieran and I are agreed that there are new challenges facing the council which require a new kind of leadership. And we are agreed that this is the right time for both Kieran and for West Sussex County Council to implement that change. We have successfully delivered the £79million savings programme, we have agreed our political priorities and focus to 2018 and have commissioning plans to deliver the outcomes we have agreed. We have also outlined a two year savings programme which goes some way to delivering the £141 million that this council must save to be able to continue to balance our books.

Despite the obvious challenges that the savings programme will bring, the County Council is in good shape. But we have to fundamentally change the way that we do things if we are to be able to achieve the ambitious outcomes we want for the County and achieve the savings that are required. I intend that the Council will appoint an interim Chief Operating Officer from the current senior leadership team to cover the day to day work of the Chief Executive and we will be appointing a new post of interim Transformation Director very soon. The Transformation Director will be tasked with carrying on the Future Council work that Kieran and his team have started into the next phase. This will enable us to become the commissioning council to which we aspire and to which we need to move to meet the new challenges facing the authority and the communities we serve.

I appreciate that this will be unsettling news for many of you. I will be holding a series of staff meetings in the coming weeks to further elaborate on reasons why I think we need to make changes in order to be able to meet the challenges ahead."



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Chichester midwife's bag stolen from car

A MIDWIFE'S BAG, along with oxygen and Entonox gas cylinders, was stolen from her car by a brazen thief in Chichester on Tuesday morning (January 7).

The theft occurred from the Vauxhall Zafira car in King's Avenue a few minutes before 9am. A man, described as white, tall and skinny was seen running from the car and it is thought that he may well have dumped the cylinders nearby. The bag did not contain any drugs, but did have a number of items of medical equipment including a blood pressure monitor and syringes. A Tom Tom sat nav was also taken.

Anyone who saw the theft taking place or who has any other information is asked to call Sussex Police on 101 quoting serial 257 of 07/01 or e-mail 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk.

Selsey man denies murder

A JILTED MAN murdered his on-off girlfriend after trying to win her back, a jury has been told.

Phillip Brown is accused of smothering Deborah Levey at her home in East Ashling, near Chichester, in January last year.

Lewes Crown Court heard Mr Brown was "possessive and controlling" of Ms Levey, 44, who told friends he had a "Jekyll and Hyde" personality.

Mr Brown, 46, from Selsey, near Chichester, denies murder.

Jurors heard that two months before she was found dead, Ms Levey ended her "passionate and highly charged" relationship with Mr Brown.

Prosecutor Mark Dennis QC said: "The prosecution allege that having gone round to the deceased's home that Sunday afternoon with the intention of trying to win her back and restart their relationship, and having spent time together, both drinking and engaging in no doubt earnest and genuine conversation about their future, there came a point when the fragility of their relationship was exposed once again.

But this time it led to tragic consequences.

"Sadly, it would have taken but a moment for the defendant to have given vent to his anger and frustration if he was failing in his ultimate dream and finding himself once again rebuffed.

"The deceased, who was by then heavily in drink, would have been in no position to have resisted a sudden outburst of aggression at the hands of the defendant.



Phillip Brown denies murdering Deborah Levey

The care scheme manager was found dead on the morning of 26 January last year at her home by a colleague who called on her as they were meant to travel to London for work.

Mr Dennis said the initial impression had been that Ms Levey had died from natural causes, or self-harm by way of an overdose.

There were, however, three particular features which either didn't fit properly with the apparent scene or raised questions as to what had really happened inside the house," he said.

He said Ms Levey was covered by a blanket up to her neck, which "appeared to be contrary to what you would expect had the deceased covered herself".

Fresh "love bites" were found on her neck and her mobile phone was found dumped at the bottom of a goldfish tank near the sofa, he added.

A post mortem examination was unable to find evidence that Ms Levey died from natural causes, but ruled out suggestions she may have self harmed or overdosed.

Mr Dennis said there were "tell-tale signs" that death was by asphyxia.

He said in the hours after she died, Mr Brown sent Ms Levey text messages raising his concerns about her whereabouts to shift any suspicion from himself.

The trial continues.

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Still time to have your say on WSCC's proposed savings plan

RESIDENTS, businesses and organisations across West Sussex are being urged to make sure they have their say on West Sussex County Council's proposed £61 million savings plan.

The county-wide consultation on the two year proposals remains open until Sunday, January 19 and is called 'Money matters - have your say'.

The plan put before councillors at the Full Council meeting on Friday, December 13 set out how WSCC could save £61 million over the next two years.

No final decisions will be taken by the Council until February.

The consultation, and details about the proposed savings plan, are available for people to view and complete online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/haveyoursay.

Copies are also available at libraries across West Sussex.

Many apply for jobs on Christmas Day

PROSPECTIVE police officers spent their Christmas Day applying for a new career with their local force.

Sussex Police received six applications on Christmas Day from residents wanting to become a police community support officer.

The force also received 12 applications completed on Boxing Day and 52 on New Year's Day.

In total, more than 500 people responded to Sussex Police's advert for the recruitment of 60 PCSOs launched on December 11.

The recruitment window closed at midday on Thursday. Applicants will now face a selection process which involves scenario tests, English skills and verbal reasoning.

Successful candidates will join Sussex Police for an eight-week initial course before being tutored on the streets.

Police bosses hope the new recruits, who could earn up to £20,000 a year, will be in place in time for next summer.

Despite receiving more than eight applications for each available post, the response was lower than the 650 applications the force received for just 30 PCSO jobs in May.



Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne said: "This is a great result, particularly given that the recruitment window was open for just three weeks and over the holiday period.

"I am delighted that there are so many residents out there who see the value in becoming a PCSO and making a difference in their local communities.

"I wish those who have been initially successful all the very best with the next stage of the application process."

A Sussex Police spokesman said: "PCSOs perform an important role within the community which includes dealing with low-level nuisance and anti-social behaviour, issuing fixed penalty tickets and conducting other duties that do not require the powers of a police officer.

"These officers provide valuable support to frontline police helping to reduce crime, reduce the fear of crime and maintaining the visibility of the police within the local community."

mind Coastal West Sussex

Friends in Mind

Events for people with an early stage dementia

A planned programme of different and stimulating regular events, recognising the needs of those people living with an early/moderate stage dementia who feel their social life may be slipping away. Carers also welcome.

The Novium, Wednesday 29 January 2014, 2pm
Join us for a short guided tour of Chichester's museum and very informal Hands on History group in The Woolstaplers Room, with Catherine. Examine objects through the ages, inc photos, textiles, games, Roman and military artefacts. Cameras permitted!

Followed by a sociable afternoon tea.

(The Woolstaplers Room will be available for anyone not wishing to take the tour. There will also be the opportunity to look around the museum at your own pace after tea)

Contribution - £2 per person. To reserve your place, or for further details, phone Rayner on 07507 164859, or email ourcafe@coastalwestsussexmind.org

An initiative of the Chichester and Bognor Dementia Care Forum. Supported by the Healthier Chichester Partnership, Coastal West Sussex Mind, Carers Support West Sussex, Alzheimer's Society and the people of Chichester.

CAT AND RABBIT RESCUE CENTRE

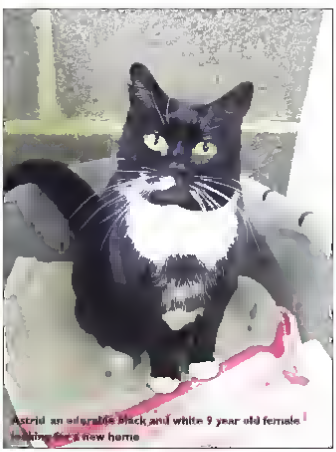
Golden Oldies

AT THE CENTRE we have many older cats looking for loving homes and they tend to be overlooked because of their age. It's not uncommon for cats to live well into their late teens and our cats still have their best years ahead of them. Older cats are usually much calmer than younger ones and less demanding, they only want for a warm lap and lots of love. With younger cats it's often harder to know what sort of cat they will become in adulthood but with the older cats what you see is what you get. The older cats are some of the most special and loving cats we have and they desperately long for the loving home they deserve.

Some of the more mature cats that we have at the centre include:

- Astrid, adorable black and white 9 year old female lady
- Morrigan, a 10 year old very affectionate tabby and white female
- Oakley, handsome grey and white 13 year old quiet but very sweet boy
- Nevaah, cute and friendly 8 year old ginger female
- Lady, a lovely black 12 year old female
- Kiri, a very pretty long haired cream and brown 12 year old, very loving and friendly girl.

Hundreds of cats and kittens are waiting for homes now. The Rescue asks for a minimum donation of £45 for each neutered cat or older kitten which includes vaccination, flea and worm preventative treatment, microchipping and Free PetPlan vet insurance for 4 weeks. An un-neutered younger kitten is £70 including a free neutering voucher (to be neutered at The Centre) for when the kitten is old enough.


Astrid, an adorable black and white 9 year old female looking for a new home

Homing by appointment 7 days a week.

Cat and Rabbit Rescue Centre, Holborow Lodge, Chalder Lane, Sidlesham, Chichester PO20 7RJ www.crrc.co.uk. Tel 01243 641109

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Valerie Graves murder: Break-in at Bosham house probed

POLICE investigating the murder of an artist are examining the possibility there was a break-in at the West Sussex property she was house-sitting.

Valerie Graves, 55, was found dead at the house in Smuggler's Lane in Bosham, near Chichester, last Monday morning.

She had been staying there with three family members while the owners were on holiday.

Officers said a stranger unconnected to Ms Graves or her family may have committed the murder.

The force is also investigating whether her death was connected to something in her past or to someone she knew recently.

Det Supt Nick May of Sussex Police, who is leading the investigation, appealed for information from anyone who saw someone with "blood stained clothes".

He also urged anyone who has been asked to wash or dispose of clothing " in unusual circumstances" to contact the force.





Valarie Graves was found dead at the house in Bosham. Police officers continue to search the harbour

Det Supt May said: "One of the lines of inquiry is that this act has been committed by somebody unconnected to Valerie.

"I'm not going to go into the specifics of how somebody may or may not have entered the house."

The family who own the house in Smuggler's Lane where the murder happened were away on holiday.

Speaking at a police press conference Ms Graves' son Tim Wood said his mother had recently moved back to Sussex from Scotland to be closer to her family.

"My mum was much loved and will be sorely missed by the whole family," he said.

She was a free spirit who enjoyed her life and was a talented artist.

She had lived in Scotland for about 10 years, a place she loved and which inspired her passion for art.

"This has been devastating for the family and has come as a complete shock.

"We would appeal to anyone who has any information about this, no matter how trivial it is, to contact the police to help us catch whoever has done this horrible act."





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We're bombarded with cute, loveable characters egging us on to borrow money



Allis Moss

On the Case

I DON'T KNOW about you but every time I switch on a radio I seem to hear an advert for a pay-day loan company. On TV I'm bombarded with cute, loveable little characters egging us on to borrow money with ever increasing interest. Friends even know one's called Earl and he plays the guitar. Any day now I'm expecting to see the merchandise for these loan companies start to roll off the production line and into the shops. Simples. More like pimples.

I feel like I am being brainwashed. Not wanting the bits in between isn't the same as turning off a programme you don't like. It's not practical. Advertisers know this. For some time, catching an audience as your favourite soap or the big movie takes a break has been the promotion of choice for many brands.

Ed Miliband says he wants to ban them from children's telly after youngsters started imitating the straplines. Maybe Ofcom should introduce a quota elsewhere too. It's tricky, though, in hard times with advertising lifelines in need of sustenance. After the news of BBC top brass accused of paying themselves shed-loads to leave the Corporation, any channel free of pay-day loan promotions and repeated ads for online gaming becomes a good reason for keeping the licence fee.

Legs Eleven

Now I don't want to sound like a party pooper. I salute the game of online bingo. But we need a little balance here, don't we. It's not just about a service to supply a demand. What kind of nation are we becoming when we're coaxed and conditioned with a constant onslaught? Casual gambling appears to be becoming the norm.

Money, money

The Church of England still hasn't sold off its investments in Wonga, several months after they were embarrassingly brought to light just after the Archbishop of Canterbury declared war on pay-day loan companies. Apparently, it's not a simple process because people's pensions are tied up in them. The Church's investment was made through a US venture capitalist that co-funded Wonga's launch, as part of a portfolio valued at more than £5 million.

Stolen ID

A reporter friend, Jon Danzig, had his identity stolen by someone who borrowed £400 from QuickQuid at 5,200% APR interest. QuickQuid then billed Jon. He wrote then rang them to try and explain the scam. The call had to be ended when Quickquid objected to him recording the conversation despite insisting they could record him!

Listen to Jon's call on YouTube. It's hilarious.

Out of order

How many people get an unexpected demand for money in the post and just pay up to avoid the stress, even if they don't need to? A bill for £57.50 plopped onto the doormat. The red text shouted it was about a "recent" claim and threatened spiralling charges and debt collectors if I didn't pay up fast. The thing was, I'd never heard of the company.

The "recent" claim turned out to be from two years back. The engineering company was trying to bill me for an inspection of my car, ordered by insurers that had never dealt with the non-fault claim, and had since gone bust. I hadn't asked for any inspection and there was no contractual agreement between me and the company demanding I pay up. Stop harassing or I'll sue, got me an apology—but how many pay up to make such threats go away?

Exchange and barter

Maybe we should just give up filthy lucre and go back to the older, purer form of settling debts—payment in kind. I am, of course, talking about exchange and barter! Or perhaps local is the way to go. Various towns and cities including Midhurst have launched their own currency to encourage local trading and help small businesses. I'd use a Chichester pound it if bought me more bang for my buck than Sterling.

And finally

There again, maybe digital is the way to go. The virtual currency, bitcoin, is said to have been appreciating and a milestone has been reached with the first street vendor selling a burger paid for with it. The burger cost 0.013 bitcoins. That's £7.50 in old money. Bitcoins aside, I think the burger buyer was done.

Contact Allis. allis.moss@chichesterherald.co.uk

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Waste not, want not - turn over a new leaf and sign up to tackle waste

NEW YEAR, new resolution and lots of Christmas excess – Why not sign up to West Sussex County Council's Waste Prevention Advisor (WPA) volunteer scheme?

Training begins in early February, so it's not too late to register your interest, though make sure you have done so by January 17.

The County Council wants new advisors to act as advocates to encourage people to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste clean, dry and loose.

It wants to hear from people who are enthusiastic and have an interest in the environment and waste prevention who would be prepared to help out at community events, give talks and help with presentations to local groups and schools.

There will be plenty for people to get their teeth into, particularly so soon after the Christmas holidays when levels of waste will have been high.

New recruits will use an e-learning training package, which has been designed by the University of Brighton.

This offers people the chance to study in their own time, and has been designed to be as flexible as possible for volunteers whilst retaining elements of face-to-face learning and site visits.

The scheme was set up in 2006 to support waste prevention initiatives in the County and is a partnership between West Sussex County Council, the District and Borough Councils and the University of Brighton with additional funding from its European project partners through the SWAP NoW project.

Register your interest at www.westsussex.gov.uk/wastevolunteers call (01243) 642100, or email wastes.management@westsussex.gov.uk

South Chichester good causes urged not to miss out on funding opportunity

MONEY is available to help good causes and community projects in the South Chichester area.

South Chichester County Local Committee (CLC) has around £20,000 left to allocate from its Community Initiative Fund (CIF) for the 2013/14 financial year.

The Committee is urging any individual or group from the area who need financial assistance for projects which will benefit the community to make an application before it's too late.

Chairman Margaret Whitehead said: "The Committee has an opportunity to spend this money on projects which will make a difference to people in South Chichester.

"We know there are lots of worthy causes in our area, many of which I am sure could benefit from some financial assistance.

'CIF is a wonderful scheme and I would encourage people to get in touch and apply before the deadline passes."

The deadline for applications to South Chichester CLC's Community Initiative Fund is Tuesday, February 4.

Application forms and information on how to apply as well as eligibility criteria, can be found at www.westsussex.gov.uk.

Search for 'Community Initiative Funding' under the County Local Committee page.

Grant applications will be considered at the final South Chichester CLC meeting for the financial year, which will be held at 7pm on Tuesday, March 4 in Committee Room 3, County Hall, West Street, Chichester, PO19 1RQ.

Have you got any unwanted Christmas Presents?

DID YOU get too many pairs of socks, that book you will never read, a gadget that will just sit in the drawer or enough bubble bath to sink the bath tub? Don't let it sit at the back of the cupboard gathering dust – give it a home at the Aldingbourne Trust!

This West Sussex charity is always on the look out for items that can be prizes in raffles and tombola s at fundraising events. They can be for children or adults, men, women, boys or girls. Donations can be dropped off at the Aldingbourne Country Centre, Blackmill Lane PO18 0JP, off the A27 near Fontwell.

"People are very generous with their donations for our events, it frees up space in their homes, gives someone a great prize and supports a local charity. We hold a variety of fundraising events – Family Open Days, Concerts, Golf Days, so the audience for the raffles are varied too. This has enabled us to hold successful tombola s and raffles at our various fundraising events throughout the year, and consequently we have raised fantastic sums of money for the charity," said Aldingbourne Trust's Enterprise and Events Co-ordinator Nicki Clarke.

The Aldingbourne Trust is a charitable organisation which supports adults with learning disabilities across West Sussex to live independently. The Aldingbourne Trust is currently holding a £4 Million Appeal. The aim of the Appeal is to raise money to develop the facilities at the charity's main site – the Aldingbourne Country Centre, and ensure the Trust can become more self sufficient and continue to support adults with learning disabilities. For any queries please contact Nicki Clarke on 01243 544607 or visit the website www.aldingbournetrust.co.uk

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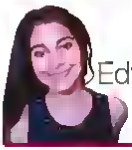




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Happy New Mia



Mia Edwards

IT'S NEW YEAR everybody! I don't know if any of you remember, but last New Year there was that massive craze for writing down something good that happened to you every day, and keeping all the nice little sentiments in a jar, which could be emptied out right about now, hopefully with 365 cute things that happened to you in 2013. As per usual I initially thought that this idea was awesome and was a keen one for writing something down every evening. This great energy lasted at least 7days before I more or less forgot about it. However, luckily for all of you, every few weeks I would remember and then suddenly write down a page full of nice things that had happened to me. So, being selfless, I thought I would empty them all out now and share some of them with you.

Keeping track of my excellent fitness, one of the first pieces of paper that surfaced was 'Ran around the block without stopping'. My block takes 1-2 minutes to run around if, like me, you are a slow runner. 2013 rules. This is made even more impressive by the fact that at the time I considered this to be so impressive that I wrote it down as an actual achievement.

Another was 'You did your Practice D of E expedition. It killed but not enough to not make it worth it!' I don't know why I decided to talk like a motivational speaker mixed with L'Oreal ad but clearly I was loving life and having a bare yolo time.

Last but not least, I found one that said, 'Ate a salad with crayfish in, hahahaha'. It has made me realise what a sad life I must lead if I thought this to be one of the most interesting things that happened to me over the spread of a few weeks.

In my defence, interesting things DID actually happen to me in 2013. I found other ones that said 'Your Work Experience was amazing,' and 'Your Granddad is on the mend'. These things genuinely meant something to me. So this year was not a complete waste. But let's just finish one the most important one, 'Got ad block on my computer'. Amen boiz, and a happy 2014 to all of you. I hope you run around many blocks.

Villagers branch out at recycling event



Wade Fazackarley (left) and Michael Reed of Michael Reed and Co tree specialists, shredding trees at Westbourne's annual recycling event

RESIDENTS in Westbourne shredded more than 100 Christmas trees during their annual recycling event in the village square on Sunday.

The event, run by local environmental group the Greening Westbourne Campaign, also collected Christmas cards and mobile phones for recycling. It has become a fixture in the calendar of the West Sussex village, near Emsworth. Chippings from trees are used on local allotments.

Greening Westbourne chair Colin Carre said: "This is always a great village event to round off the festive season. We have mulled wine and mince pies and people enjoy it. It's a fun community event but it fits with our goal of helping people to do small things locally to combat climate change."

Greening Westbourne also organises events such as a family fun bike ride, and is working to create a community orchard.

The tree shredding was performed for free by village tree specialists Michael Reed & Co.

Resident Tony Cullen came out tops in a competition to guess the number of trees recycled, winning a free tree for next year, donated by Rowlands Home Hardware.

Anyone interested can contact the campaign on greeningwestbourne@hotmail.co.uk.

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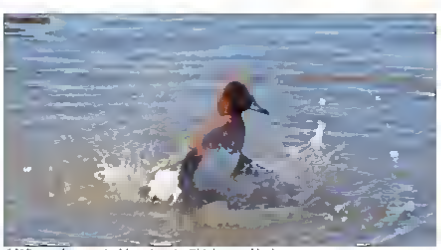
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CHICHESTER HARBOUR WITH ED ROWSELL

Go Wild with Ed



A Wigeon has a splashing time in Chichester Harbour

Birds

It is good weather for ducks! The end of 2013 and the start of 2014 has seen some fairly wet and wild weather across the UK. It is probably debatable if wet weather is really good for ducks, but it has opened up a lot of opportunities for them to feed. Look for packs of Teal, Wigeon and Mallard using splashes in grasslands and arable fields created by the waterlogged ground conditions.

The wet conditions have also had the effect of reducing opportunities for birders to get out and find interesting birds a pair of Snow Buntings have been spotted at East Head, these pretty little birds often have very little fear of humans and will carry on feeding as you walk past.

Mammals

The heavy rain and high water levels can be problematic for our mammals species as hibernating species such as Hedgehogs sometimes get flooded out. Species active in the winter can be displaced from their burrows and other winter quarters, this can be particularly disruptive for species such as Wood Mouse and Water Vole which carefully cache food supplies to last the winter.

Insects

It is not a completely blank time of year for insects. The odd butterfly can still seen in warm periods or if disturbed from hibernation, a Small Tortoiseshell was flying around my bedroom just last week. On night time car journeys you may notice insects attracted toward your car lights, these are most likely Winter Moths. The caterpillars of the Winter Moth are one of the key food sources for Blue Tits feeding chicks in the Spring.

Plants

The bare, dark skeletal trees of December are already starting to show signs of life and colour, with buds slowly developing on many species. Look for golden hue developing on some species of Willow and a red tinge to Oak. It won't be long before the first green spikes of bluebell and other bulbs start emerging.

Sightings

Please report any interesting sightings to the harbour office, particularly of fields in use by Brent Geese and observations of Water Voles to the Harbour Office.

Not Only Sofas

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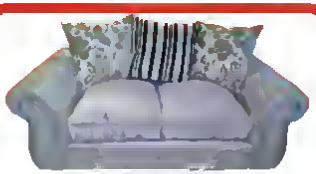
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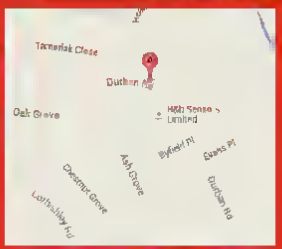
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Chocolate, gyms and depressing Mondays



Many don t see out January when starting a new year in the gym



Dean Adams

Chichester Observer Local Journalist

BLUE MONDAY for 2014 fell on Monday January 6, according to many news sources In other words, this is the most depressing day of the year.

Some other people will argue and say Monday 20 January will arguably be the most depressing day because it's still a week to pay day for most yet many of us were paid before Christmas

With the weather as it is I have never seen or felt such a gloomy January – most people are talking like the end of the world is coming!

Let us know what you think @Chiherald

The ones always left over

THERE'S still a box of Cadbury Heroes on my desk left over from Christmas As expected, there is still a few left and it is always the same culprits that are left over Fudge and Eclairs

Year after year it's the same old story, so why do Cadbury not change their chocolate line-up? This year's favourites as always were Cream Egg Twisted, Twirl and Toblerone But they were all eaten by my colleague. She's been in the gym ever since

Gym to Weight Watchers

WENT to the gym the other night after work and had to leave after 5 minutes as it was so busy with people who had eaten all the chocolates at Christmas Everyone s decided to join a gym for two weeks before they give up and hit the chocolate aisles again.

Why do so many people think, "ooh, new year, I'd better get fit"? Why does it have to be in January and not as and when they think they are unfit?

I'll get back in the gym in a week's time when the lazy ones go back to weight watchers

Anywhere for children?

AS A single father, on certain days with a one year-old I often wonder what to do with him. It's not as if I can take him to the football yet or anything 'manly' – so what can I do? Yes I can see the family go to the park or feed the ducks – but what is really out there for us fathers and children and especially in this horrid wet weather? Tweet me @chiherald

Photo of the week

#Chichesterphoto



Simon Giddings @SimonGiddings 8 Jan 2014
#Selsey treated me to the most spectacular #sunrise this morning!!

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Murrays



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Entries close on Wednesday 15 January 2014 at midday The competition is for one winner who wins a 3 course meal for two from the Prix Fixe menu There is no cash alternative A winner will be announced by Murrays every Wednesday Entry details may be kept on file Last week's answer was Priory Park, Chichester



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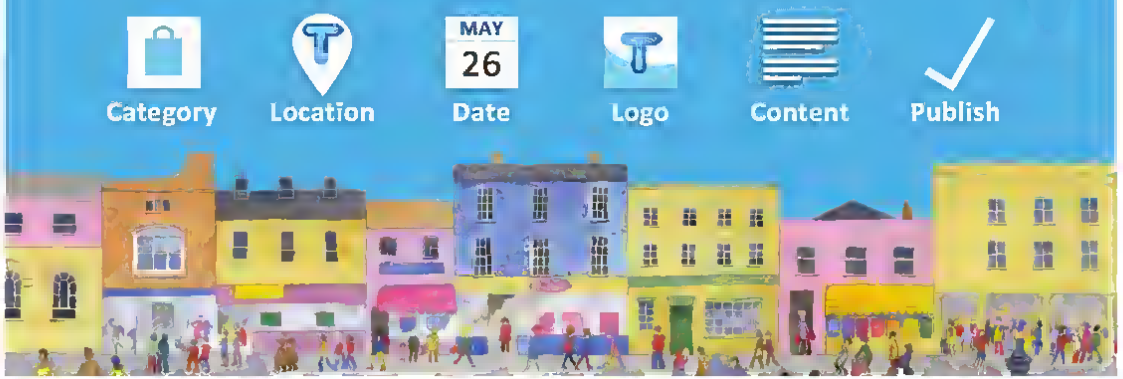
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Bizarre left-behinds in Chichester Travelodge

WHERE WOULD YOU FIND a cricket helmet, a DKNY watch, a horse clipper and a submersible pond pump? Where else but Travelodge's lost & found office!

The UK's first budget hotel chain, Travelodge, has announced the mysterious objects left behind in its 500 UK hotels during 2013. With over 10 million people staying with Travelodge each year, some of the booty that has been left behind in its two hotels in Chichester includes:

A cricket helmet, DKNY watch, horse clipper, submersible pond pump and a musical cot mobile for a baby.

Across the UK, some of the more bizarre items include a prenuptial agreement, a set of 24 carat gold Indian Gods, deeds to a £2 million house, a set of exclusive trial yoghurt flavours that have not been launched to the public, a £5,000 Vera Wang wedding dress and a pet tarantula called Hercules.

Shakila Ahmed, Travelodge spokeswoman said: "Each year our lost and found inventory report provides plenty of revelations. From deeds to a £2 million house, a set of 24 carat gold Indian Gods and a Vertu mobile phone right through to a pet tarantula and even exclusive yoghurt flavours which have not even been launched to the public, it's evident what a cross section of people stay in our 500 hotels.

"Our 2013 left behind register also reveals how much smart technology has become a part of our everyday lives, as we have had nearly 10,000 tablets and smartphones left behind in our hotels in the last 12 months. This is a significant increase from previous years.

"What is becoming evident after speaking to our customers is that the pace of life has become so fast and we are so eager to get from A to B that valuable possessions are easily being forgotten."

Listed below are the top ten most popular items left behind in Travelodge hotels during 2013:

- Chargers
- Mobile phones
- Books
- Laptops / tablets / kindles



- Pyjamas / clothing
- Toiletry bags
- Teddy bears
- Electric toothbrushes
- Bags / suitcases
- Sat navs

All items left behind in Travelodge hotels which have not been claimed within three months, are donated to local charity shops.



Kaliko Business Development Consultancy

Based in Chichester, Kaliko Consultancy offers personal business development services to small and medium sized businesses in the local area

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National News

Child sex attackers among criminals not jailed

ABOUT 50% of criminals convicted of sex offences, violence and burglaries in England and Wales in 2012 were not sent to prison, it has emerged.

Of paedophiles who abused children under the age of 13, 107 nearly half – were not jailed.

The figures were released following a parliamentary question from shadow justice secretary Sadiq Khan, who said the news was an insult to victims.

The government said it was working to give courts tough sentencing powers.

The Ministry of Justice figures also showed 40% of convicted robbers – about 5,000 people – and 51% of drug dealers were not jailed in 2012.

In cases of sexual assault, 49% – more than 2,300 offenders – were not given custodial sentences.

Among those convicted of rape, 94% were sent to prison, the vast majority for more than four years.

Mr Khan said government cuts were undermining the justice system.

"Some of these crimes are so serious and violent that members of the public rightly expect them to lead to a prison sentence," he told the Daily Telegraph.

"Justice done on the cheap like this risks prisoners reoffending rather than being reformed, which means more victims and misery.

"This will be an insult to many victims of crime who want to see those who committed crimes against them properly punished and rehabilitated."

Justice Secretary Chris Grayling said the government was working to ensure the "toughest sentencing measures" were available to the courts.

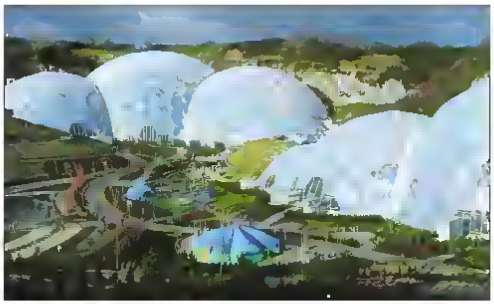


He told the Telegraph he would "take no lessons" from Labour, who he said "let thousands of offenders off with a slap on the wrist" and failed to tackle the reoffending rate.

"Our reforms will help criminals [move] away from crime – and help them stay away from it," he said.

Mr Grayling replaced Kenneth Clarke as justice secretary in the autumn of 2012 – the year these figures relate to – and BBC political correspondent Chris Mason said that move by David Cameron was widely seen as a signal that he wanted to appear tougher on law and order.

Eden Project in Cornwall reports £6.3m loss



The Eden Project in Cornwall

THE EDEN PROJECT has reported its worst-ever loss.

The Eden Trust accounts for 2012-13 show a deficit of £6.3m for the year ending March 2013, compared with a surplus the previous year of £136,000.

The Cornwall eco-attraction said its underlying trading loss was about £1.3m compared with a profit of £3.6m in the previous year.

It said it had been hit by the 2012 Olympics, poor summer weather, and the economic downturn.

Eden said it had cut jobs and made other changes since the accounting period ended.

Eden opened in 2001 as a showcase for nature in a series of huge dome-shaped greenhouses.

But visitor numbers dropped below one million in 2012-13 to 953,000 for the year, and Eden made 54 job cuts to its staff of 445.

It said in the accounts: "Eden has been reluctant to reduce its level of employment, but has concluded that this is essential to preserve and grow Eden for the longer term.

"Eden is ensuring that the business will remain profitable even if visitor numbers were to reduce further."

Since March 2013, the attraction has also sold surplus land.

"With asset sales in the region of £2m, Eden expects to pay off borrowings and other liabilities totalling £3.3m during 2013-14," it said in the accounts.

Malcolm Bell of tourism body Visit Cornwall, said: "I think if you have 10 years of good trading, you tend to think that the world won't change that dramatically, which it obviously did."

Sainsbury's cuts its sales forecast

SAINSBURY'S has cut its full-year sales forecast after warning that customers are likely to "spend cautiously" in the first few months of 2014.

The supermarket giant had expected to see a sales rise of 1% to 1.5% in this financial year.

But despite seeing record transactions in the run up to Christmas, it now expects growth of "just under 1%".

Although Sainsbury's reported a 36th consecutive quarter of like-for-like sales growth, its shares fell 1.8%.

In the 14 weeks to 4 January, the firm's like-for-like sales, stripping out the effect of new stores, rose 0.2% excluding fuel.

Sainsbury's said the seven days before Christmas were the firm's "busiest ever" trading week, with more than 28 million transactions.

It described the third quarter figures as a "good sales performance in a tough market".

Rival chains Waitrose and the Co-op also reported rises in sales over the Christmas period.

Late last year, Sainsbury's overtook Asda and moved into the number two spot for the largest supermarket in the UK, second to Tesco.

News in Brief

- House prices across the UK rose by 7.5% last year, according to the Halifax, the country's largest mortgage lender. However, Halifax said prices actually fell by 0.0% in December, taking the average price of a property to £173,407.

- Matt Prior and England cricket team-mate Stuart Broad helped rescue a man preparing to jump off a bridge in Sydney, Australia. The pair found the man on the edge of a bridge in Darling Harbour and Prior helped to pull him down.

- The charity ChildLine says it has seen a large increase in the number of children contacting it with concerns about online bullying. It saw 4,507 cases of cyberbullying in 2012-13, up from 2,410 in 2011-12. The charity also saw a rise in concerns about self-harming, while depression and difficult family relationships were the top reasons for seeking help.

- Shares in Mothercare have fallen 31% following a profit warning as a result of Christmas discounting in the UK and weak economic conditions overseas. Total worldwide group sales fell 0.1% in the 12 weeks to 4 January, with UK like-for-like sales down 4%.

- Bradford Royal Infirmary does not have enough staff to provide "safe and effective care", say inspectors. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) said staff shortages, particularly in the accident and emergency department, had a direct impact on the hospital's ability to deal with patients. It also raised concerns about the staffing skill mix in some areas.

- "Immediate action" needs to be taken at Wolverhampton City Council to stop it "becoming insolvent", leaders have said. The Labour-run council said 1,400 jobs would go as part of £123m cuts over the next five years, with £31m of savings to be made before 2015. It said the cuts were forced by a £147m fall in government funding by 2016. The Conservative group said the council's financial problems had stemmed from overspending in the past.

Chichester Business

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Spofforths partner awarded an OBE in Queen's New Year's Honours List

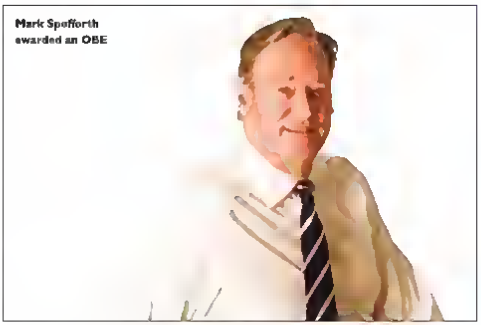
SPOFFORTHS Chartered Accountants and professional advisers have announced that partner Mark Spofforth has been awarded an OBE in the Queen s New Year's Honour list for his service to the Accountancy profession

Mark has given a considerable amount of voluntary time and effort to the Accountancy profession during his working life, having been a respected member of the influential Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales Council for nearly 20 years Mark has been Chairman of the Council which assists government by advising in a number of areas such as tax and business growth and represents the UK profession on the global stage, as well as chairing committees and working parties within the Institute

A key achievement for Mark was as a member of the ICAEW Regulatory Review Working Party, which ultimately led to the establishment of the independent regulation of the profession and more recently, Mark was President of ICAE'W in 2012/13 which saw him focussed on building trust in the profession, simplification of accounts and de-regulation As part of this programme, Mark served on the UK Takeover Panel and also on the Deregulation Strategy Group at BIS

Spofforths Managing Partner Richard Spofforth comments "My fellow partners and I are very pleased that all the hard work and time that Mark has dedicated to our profession has been recognised so publicly with the award of an OBE Mark s insights into the future of the profession and his high profile have been a credit to Spofforths and will continue to be so in the future "

Mark Spofforth is naturally delighted with his award, saying 'I'm obviously extremely pleased to be recognised in this way, although nervous that I have been preferred over others more worthy I'm very aware how much I owe to the team around me, both personal and professional, who have earned this as much as I have and I'm very grateful I guess the only time in my life that I've been more proud was when watching my daughter Gemma win the World Championships in Rome in the 100m Backstroke "



Mark Spofforth awarded an OBE

Mark is also actively involved in the charity sector and worked with Lord Hodgson on a Government review of the Charities Act in March 2012. On the publication of the report, Mark made several presentations on the regulatory framework and expected changes from the review, which made over 100 recommendations Mark continues his charity work and was also recently appointed as a Trustee of the Thalidomide Trust

Mark will be invited to Buckingham Palace within the next six months to receive his award



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Chichester Business

The Tall Dog introduces a new business opportunity for your town or village to become part of C.H.A.N.G.E.!

THE TALL DOG was set up in 2013, in Midhurst, with the sole aim of doing something positive for the community, bringing local people together, to encourage local people to use local businesses and services, give local businesses the opportunity to make themselves known in the local community, to raise money and support local charities, help job seekers and network people and businesses in different ways

The Tall Dog was set up to trial how the Community Hub would work and as this has been a huge success, playing a very supportive role to those businesses and people involved in the Midhurst Hub (known as The Tall Dog), they have set up C.H.A.N.G.E. to incorporate all the Community Hubs across Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire.

It is a very exciting opportunity that C.H.A.N.G.E. is offering to other communities. They are looking for those people that would like to join to get in touch

If you feel that your store/cafe or community centre is the ideal location to get your town/village set up as a Community Hub and be part of this ever growing network, then you need to contact The Tall Dog for an application form today via email Vicki@thetalldog.co.uk or contact 01730 815878

This is an opportunity where you can generate extra income which can be reinvested into your current business, maybe offering more local facilities and services to your local people or simply supporting your business to continue offering what you do. You can be as pro-active as you wish in growing this opportunity, or simply sit back and leave it to The Tall Dog, however the more you put into it, the greater the rewards for your community

They already support a different charity each month, and would hope that all of the new hubs that join be part of this too, because together, everyone can raise much needed funds to help local people and local charities. You would be updated in the events and can even develop your own, nominate local charities to raise money for, so together our ever-growing Hub can bring towns together, supporting each other, making people aware of what all our towns are doing under one large roof

C.H.A.N.G.E.

If your outlet is selected as the Community Hub for your town/village then you will be listed on the C.H.A.N.G.E. website which is currently being developed to list all the Hubs, giving people the opportunity to see what your business offers, where you are, and the facilities you offer, giving your current business free publicity, promotion and networking opportunities

If you have a large community spirit already offering services to your local community, you are excited about bringing local people together and want to encourage locals to use local people then you could be just what C.H.A.N.G.E. is looking for. Why not start 2014 on a positive note – doing something good for your local community

For more information or an application form – contact Vicki Harrison, The Tall Dog, Apsley House, Church Hill, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9NX or email Vicki@thetalldog.co.uk 01730 858178/07576 112199 or pop in to see Vicki or Kayleigh between 9.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday

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Seats in the Stalls for matinee performance.

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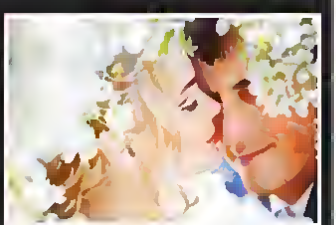


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Visit our website for more information on why Chichester Park Hotel is the right venue for your big day



Having your wedding in a hotel can make the event comfortable and convenient for both you and your guests; after the big day you can quickly retreat to our honeymoon suite! Our hotel is suitable for either large celebrations or intimate gatherings and a bespoke menu can be designed just for you. And we can provide pre-wedding pampering sessions thanks to our Retreat Beauty Spa. So what are you waiting for? Chichester Park Hotel is the perfect venue for your wedding day!

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Arts & Entertainment

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Now showing at Cineworld Chichester

The hairstyles alone deserve an Oscar

American Hustle (15)
Running time 139 mins
Director David O Russell
Christian Bale, Jennifer Lawrence, Amy Adams, Bradley Cooper

★★★★★

Brilliantly directed and superbly written, this is a hugely entertaining drama with impeccable production design work, a fabulous soundtrack and note-perfect performances from a terrific ensemble cast



What's it all about?
Co-written and directed by David O Russell, American Hustle is loosely based on the events surrounding the FBI's Abscam sting in the late 1970s – a caption at the beginning of the film announces "Some of this actually happened." Christian Bale stars as overweight, balding (the opening scene sees him elaborately gluing on a hairpiece) con man Irving Rosenfeld, who runs a low-level fraud game with his girlfriend Sydney (Amy Adams).

When they get caught by ambitious FBI agent Richie DiMaso (Bradley Cooper), Sydney wants to flee the country, but Irving is reluctant to leave his flighty wife Rosalyn (Jennifer Lawrence), whose young son he has just adopted. Instead, Richie coerces both Irving and Sydney into taking part in an elaborate scam intended to entrap mobsters and dirty politicians, but Irving becomes increasingly uncomfortable as he befriends intended target Mayor Carmine Polito (Jeremy Renner) and realises he's a decent man trying to help his community.

The Good
Reuniting the casts of his two previous films (Bale and Adams from The Fighter, Cooper and Lawrence from Silver Linings Playbook), Russell elicits terrific performances from all four leads, particularly Adams, who is simply sensational as Sydney, exhibiting both a hard-edged instinct towards self-preservation (she calmly announces to Irving that she'll be cosying up to Richie so he'll go easy on her) and an aching vulnerability (the scene where she squares off against Rosalyn in a club toilet is one of several highlights).

Bale (who put on a frankly disturbing amount of weight for the role) is equally good as Irving, underplaying it to engaging effect and gradually building sympathy for the character in unexpected ways, while Lawrence steals every scene as always-wrong but thinks-she's-right Jersey Girl Rosalyn (the scene where she blows up a microwave is laugh-out-loud funny). Similarly, a cast against type Cooper seizes the chance to play an asshole for once and duly delivers perhaps his best performance to date.

The Great
As with The Fighter and Silver Linings Playbook, Russell takes an edgy, multi-layered character-led approach to what in other hands could have been routine studio genre fare. As such, there are occasional echoes of Scorsese's Goodfellas, thanks to some superb editing, impeccable production design work (the glorious hairstyles alone deserve an Oscar), fabulous costumes and a superb soundtrack.

Worth seeing?
American Hustle is a brilliantly made and wonderfully acted drama that's a treat from start to finish. In a word, unmissable.

MUSIC THROUGH THE DECADES TRIBUTE NIGHT 11/1/14

In support of
Mind, Alzheimer's Society
Judith Adams Centre Chichester
The Chestnuts Centre Bognor Regis



PATSY CLINE ✷ FRANK SINATRA ✷ CONNIE FRANCIS

Saturday 11th January 2014
7.30pm till Midnight

Venue
Riverside Caravan Park,
Shripney Road, Bognor Regis
Tel: 01243 865823

Admission by Ticket available from
Judith Adams Centre,
The Chestnuts Centre
and Riverside Caravan Park
Tel: 01243 536433

TICKET £10

Competition

WIN TWO TICKETS TO CINEWORLD

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Q **Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper first teamed up in which film?**

A SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK
B. THE HANGOVER
C. THE HUNGER GAMES

Send your answer and include your full name, address and a contact phone number to **competition@chichesterherald.co.uk**. One lucky winner will be selected at random. Closing time is Tuesday 14th January 2014 at midday. The winner will be notified later on that day. Last week's winner was Patricia Dry from Chichester. Chichester Herald competition terms and conditions apply.

cineworld CINEMAS
Cineworld Chichester
Chichester Gate, Chichester PO19 8EL
0871 200 2000

Influential religious writer Thomas Merton showcased at University

THE LIFE AND WORK of distinguished religious writer Thomas Merton will be showcased at the University of Chichester next week.

The talk, which will also explore the impact of the Anglo-American author on US politics throughout the 1960s, is being held on Wednesday 15 January.

A keen proponent of interfaith understanding, Thomas Merton wrote more than 60 popular books on spirituality, civil rights, and the nuclear arms race, and sold more one million copies of his autobiography before dying in 1968.

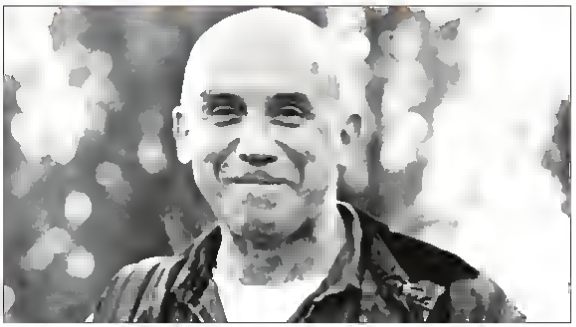
The event, which is free to attend, will be led by Canadian scholar Professor Michael Higgins, who has written a number of books on theology, including top-seller Heretic Blood. The Spiritual Geography of Thomas Merton.

He said: "More than any other major religious figure in the twentieth century, Thomas Merton chronicled his life with a devotion and creative intensity that resulted in a readership of immense proportions and a perduring influence of yet to be fully calculated dimensions.

"He also continues to fascinate in the shadow of his centenary."

The talk, which starts at 7pm, is being held in the university's Cloisters Chambers, Bishop Otter campus, in Chichester.

To find out more contact event organiser Heather Ballamy at h.ballamy@chi.ac.uk.



Eco Cinema kicks-off with a bang with nature fairy-tale The Fox and The Child

TRANSITION Chichester will be kicking off a new season of its successful Eco Cinema with a screening of the film the The Fox and the Child. Narrated by new Sussex resident Kate Winslet, the film has received high acclaim throughout the international film scene.

The Fox and the Child recounts the story of a magical, life-changing encounter between a wild fox and a young girl, portraying the story of their impossible friendship played out against a breath-taking mountainside wilderness (shot in both France and Italy).

Springing from his own formative childhood encounters with a fox, and drawing on years of wildlife documentary expertise to craft a dramatic and thrilling narrative seen almost exclusively from the animal's perspective, director Luc Jacquet's film offers audiences an unprecedented journey into the magical, secret world of this most elusive and enigmatic creature. Through Jacquet's camera, the audience becomes the fox: sharing its senses, experiencing the dangers it faces and perceiving the images and sounds that surround it.

Anita Van Rossum, Eco-Cinema Co-ordinator said: "The Fox and the Child is a beautiful and magical film, we're really excited to be showing at the first Eco-Cinema of the season, kicking us off with a real bang – and warming everyone up in the cold month of January with a truly mesmerizing, heart warming tale of the remarkable friendship of a fox and a child."

Event details: Date: Monday 13 January.
Time: 7.30pm. Venue: Bassil Shippam Centre, Tozer Way, St Pancras, PO19 7LG.
Price: £5 refreshments included. Entry price contributes to venue and film licence costs.
Contact for more info: 07793 555430 / projects@transitionchichester.org
Online: http://www.transitionchichester.org
FB: Transition Chichester

What's On in your local area...

• A CHARITY night of music through the decades with some amazing local tribute bands including will be held in Chichester next month providing an enjoyable evening of entertainment, fun and dancing. Acts will include South Beat Beatles tribute act, The Rolling Tones, Abba Chicks, Frank Sinatra, Patsy Cline and Connie Francis.
The Event will be held at the Riverside Caravan Park in The Ballroom on 11 January 2014 it's £10 per ticket and those can be purchased from Rivers de Caravan Park, Shripney Road Bognor Regis 01243 865823 The Judith Adams centre St Pancras Chichester 01243 536433 or The Chestnuts in Bognor Regis 01243 841708.
The monies made will be split four ways between the following charities and day centres that all provide care, research and quality of life for people living with dementia.

• Creations Hair in Chichester are putting on two events for charity' Charity Poker If you fancy a bit of a gamble or know anyone who does, we have a charity poker match on the 26th January at the Eastgate in Chichester It's only a £10 buy in with a first and second prize the match will start at 4pm. Please let Emma know if you want to put your name down for this on 07502225965

The Hearts and Diamonds Black Tie Ball Starting at 7.30 at Rowlands Castle Golf Club on the 15th February, tickets are £40 with dinner entertainment, dancing, the chance to win some amazing prizes in the raffle and brilliant auction prizes to bid on! Tickets are on sale now at Creations or call Emma on 07502225965

• Concorde is a social club which provides friendship and companionship for single people. It is not a dating club but any members who form relationships or marry remain members.
It meets every Tuesday at the Walnut Tree Runcton and holds a variety of events throughout the year. New members are very welcome. Anyone who would like more information can visit www.concordesinglesocialclub.org.uk or phone 01243 575093 or 01243 604715

• CHICHESTER PICKERS (The Chichester Acoustic Music Club) invites all who would like to sing/play their own choice of music and those who would like to enjoy local musicians performing in an intimate and friendly gathering. We have players at varying levels but we are not judgemental.
We meet every second and fourth Thursday in the skittle alley of the Gribble Inn, Gribble Lane, Oving PO20 2BP.
More details from Andrew@andrewperry.plus.com or 01243 776391.

• Chichester Art Society's new programme of workshops for early 2014 offers great opportunities to local artists. There is a relaunch of the popular Figures & Faces Workshops on Tuesdays 1.30 – 4.30pm, starting January 7th for 12 weeks to March 25th. Portrait and Life Study alternate starting with Portrait Study. You can work alongside local artist Lucie Cookson who will be overseeing the poses and offering an overview of work during the session. (Non-members £11 per session or £10 if three or more booked.) Limited to 20 but enquiries about availability can be made up to 10am on the day by contacting the Secretary (see below).
The Society's full programme of meetings and workshops for 2014 is on the website: www.chi-art-soc.org. All workshops are at Bassil Shippam Centre, Tozer Way, St Pancras, Chichester PO19 7LG (parking and easy access). Prices include refreshments but not materials. Further details from the Secretary on 01243 602360 or email jean.



can spell it on a UKor text message 07831 666451.

• Monthly meetings carried out partially in Welsh, rest in English-all levels of Welsh welcome; meetings in members houses- contact Geoffrey on 07968 215 256 or gbthompson@btinternet.com.

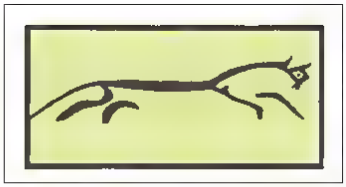
If you would like a non profit or profit charity event listed then send 70 words to events@chichesterherald.co.uk. All listings are subject to change without notice and are printed here as supplied and in good faith. Chichester Herald cannot be held responsible for any changes occurring after publication.

Food & Drink

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Relaxed dining in a welcoming atmosphere

Stunning views and delicious food await at the Black Horse, Binsted



OWNED by Clive and Victoria Smith who have a history of running successful pubs in the local area, the Black Horse at Binsted was lovingly refurbished back in 2012 to create a large open plan bar and dining room with views over the Avisford Park Golf Course and stunning surrounding scenery.

The bar and restaurant are light and airy with exposed oak frames and log fires, perfect to sit and enjoy a pint of local ale and study the thoughtfully composed menu.

The menu is varied but includes all the classics including steak, kidney and Guinness pie, fish and chips and calves liver and bacon as well as more complex and unique dishes such as beetroot risotto topped with goats cheese, rocket and balsamic glaze, sea bass fillet and pan fried king scallops with pancetta, baby spinach leaves, brandy and creamy dauphinois potatoes. There is also a choice of lighter options such as smoked chicken salad and light bites for children.

Food and Restaurant Review

Portion size: Generous
Service: Friendly and accommodating
Value for Money: Good food, honestly priced
Ambiance: Modern, comfortable and lots of natural light

We tried the chicken salad as a starter. Brimming with fresh salad leaves, fresh avocado chunks, sun blushed tomatoes, crispy pancetta strips and home smoked chicken, this entrée is a light and healthy choice to any meal and also available in a larger size as a main course.



For our main course, we sampled the beer battered haddock and chips. A generous portion of meaty haddock served as two succulent fillets of crispy, battered fish with a large portion of hand cut chips and a serving of the chefs very own mushy peas and tangy tartare sauce.

To finish, the brioche bread and butter pudding is definitely worth a try. Light and fluffy in texture, this creamy winter warming dessert is served with hot custard for the ultimate finish to any meal.

As well as evening restaurant dishes, the pub offers sandwiches and ploughmans as well as a competitively priced set Sunday lunch menu.

The pub is open Tuesday to Sunday and caters for all party sizes whether it be a cosy evening meal with the family or large group or event. Dogs are welcome and children are fully catered for. To book your table today, contact Clive and Victoria on 01243 553325.

The Black Horse, Binsted, Arundel, West Sussex, BN18 0LP
www.theblackhorsebinsted.com

Let us know what you think @Chiherald

The Great British Bake Off team turned heat on other celebrity chefs in Christmas book chart



THE BATTLE for the No 1 celebrity cook book this Christmas was won by the team behind The Great British Bake Off.

The TV show, which has enjoyed record viewing figures this year, has become so popular that its chefs Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry dominated the Christmas cookery top 10 chart with five books.

The No 1 best seller was The Great British Bake Off programme's own book featuring cake, bread, biscuit and pie recipes.

But the pair also had four of their own cook books in the Tesco list with Paul Hollywood's Pies and Puds in second position and Mary Berry's Complete Cookbook, Christmas Collection and Cookery Course also making the top 10.

Tesco book buyer Hazel Powell said: "The Great British Bake Off is now so popular that it has helped create the biggest home baking revival in decades and turn what was an occasional dabble into one of our most popular hobbies.

"As a result, the show and its two chefs Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry have dominated the book chart this Christmas.

"Jamie Oliver of course also features in the list as do a couple of other long term favourites, Nigel Slater and Rick Stein."

Also notable in the top 10 list is the literary arrival of Tom Kerridge whose successful TV show Proper Pub Food has also been enjoying strong viewing figures this year.

The chef, whose pub is the only one in Britain to ever earn two Michelin stars, is in fourth place with his first book, Proper Pub Food.

Tesco's top 10 celebrity chef cook books this Christmas

1. Great British Bake Off: Everyday: Over 100 Foolproof Recipes
2. Paul Hollywood's Pies And Puds
3. Nigel Slater: Eat: The Little Book Of Fast Food
4. Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food
5. Save With Jamie: Shop Smart, Cook Clever, Waste Less
6. Rick Stein's India
7. Mary Berry's Complete Cookbook
8. The Hairy Dieters: How To Love Food And Lose Weight
9. Mary Berry's Christmas Collection
10. Mary Berry's Cookery Course

The Taste arrives on our screens

TV SERIES The Taste, starring Nigella Lawson, made its UK debut on Channel 4 on Tuesday evening.

Based on the hit US format, the show saw the TV cook and bestselling author, alongside US chef Anthony Bourdain and French chef Ludo Lefebvre, battle it out to find the The Taste's first British winner.

The series of 10 60-minute episodes is billed as a culinary show that goes back to basics. The superstar mentors will each coach a team of four contestants, who face weekly group and individual challenges before the final elimination. But the pressure is on as they can only give the mentors one spoonful of their food and every tasting is done blind, so the experts never know whose food they are eating.

World-class guest chefs including Yotam Ottolenghi, Richard Corrigan, Angela Hartnett and Fergus Henderson will set and judge the weekly immunity group challenge where each mentor must coach their team to cook up the most delicious dish. The spoon deemed the tastiest will secure that



person's place in the competition for another week.

Not only does The Taste mark the welcome return of Nigella Lawson to our screens, the Domestic Goddess can finally get back to doing what she does best letting us watch her eat things.

The Taste was originally commissioned by ABC in the US and Channel 4 has also secured the rights to air the US version of the cooking competition show.



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The best health enhancing detox foods!



Denise Kelly
Naturopath c a Therap st

SO, IT'S JANUARY and the majority of us have overindulged, over drunk and are feeling the need to cleanse! There are many ways to do this, but if you want to keep it simple and add some great foods into your daily regime that are not only going to give you some power, but help shed those extra pounds too, then here's my top six

1 Flaxseeds and Flaxseed Oil
These are loaded with essential fatty acids, particularly the omega 3's They are essential for many cleansing functions and maintaining a healthy immune system. They are also critical to maintaining a healthy brain The health of every cell in your body is dependent on getting adequate amounts of essential fatty acids.

2 Garlic
This helps cleanse harmful bacteria, intestinal parasites, and viruses from the body, especially from the blood and intestines It also helps cleanse buildup from the arteries and lowers blood pressure Garlic has anti-cancer and antioxidant properties that help detoxify the body of harmful substances It also helps cleanse the respiratory tract by expelling mucous buildup in the lungs and sinuses. I am referring to fresh garlic, not garlic powder, which has virtually none of the above properties

3 Kale
This dark green leafy vegetable contains powerful anti-cancer and antioxidant compounds that help cleanse the body of harmful substances It is also high in fiber, which helps cleanse the intestinal tract. Like cabbage, kale helps neutralize compounds found in cigarette smoke and contains a substance that jump-starts the liver's production of cleansing enzymes, which trust me, most of us could do with a boost of!

4 Legumes (Don't forget you can sprout these too)
They are loaded with fiber that helps lower cholesterol, cleanse the intestines, and regulate blood sugar levels Legumes also help protect the body against cancer

5 Lemons
These are superb liver detoxifiers In addition, they contain high amounts of vitamin C, a vitamin needed by the body to make a substance called glutathione Glutathione helps ensure that phase 2 liver detoxification keeps pace with phase 1, thereby reducing the likelihood of negative effects from environmental chemicals Vitamin C and other antioxidants found in lemons are integral to ward off cancer fight the effects of pollution and cell damage Fresh lemon juice contains more than 20 anti-cancer compounds and helps balance the body's pH levels

6 Seaweed
This could be the most underrated vegetable in the Western world Studies have shown that seaweeds binds to radioactive waste in the body so it can be removed Radioactive waste can find its way into the body through some medical tests or through food that has been grown where water or soil is contaminated. Seaweed also binds to heavy metals to help eliminate them from the body In addition, it is a powerhouse of minerals and trace minerals.



Lemons have many benefits

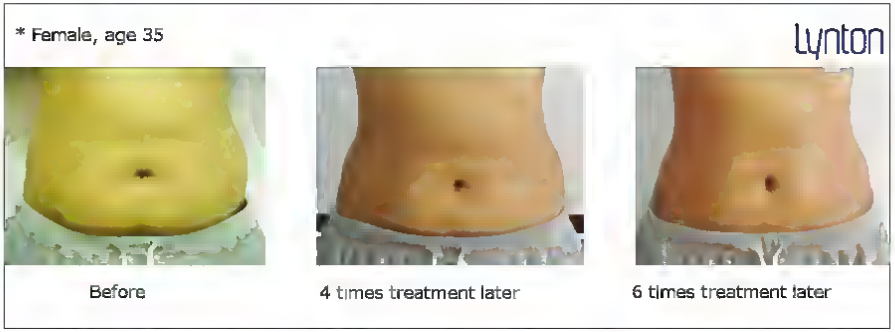
What is a detox diet for?
Any detox diet has a purpose beyond simply ridding your body of toxins The belief that such a detox diet is that all these toxins we breathe in and ingest everyday can be responsible for skin problems headaches fatigue and sickness The goal of the detox diet is to help get the body back to a healthful fresh state The elimination of the toxins is believed to purify the body and help it function better It's good to do a detox at least four times per year

For a full consultation and Acyra Medical Test with Denise and to find out just what's going on in your body, please contact her on info@deniseKelly.co.uk or 01243 520040

Denise Kelly is a BANT (British association of Nutritional therapists) registered Naturopathic Nutritional Therapist. She writes Nutrition Programs for a variety of organisations and has a private practice in Chichester West Sussex. @DrNutrition

National Obesity Week

Combining Exercise with Technology to Help Weight Loss & Body Contouring



IN ENGLAND, 61.3% of us are overweight or obese, putting us at higher risk of getting diabetes, some cancers and heart disease

At this time of the year, we are often planning our new years' resolutions with weight loss being a part of that. Whether it's starting a diet, joining the gym or eating more healthily, new technology equipment for weight loss has rapidly advanced, and there are a number of methods that can help you lose excess fat either with another method of eating and keeping fit, or using the equipment in isolation

Where you lose fat is also important? Would you like to change your body shape? A significant benefit of visiting a clinic to receive a fat reduction treatment is that you will be able to influence which area of the body you lose fat from. You may have love handles, a tummy paunch or bingo wings which never budge no matter how much weight you lose Or perhaps you've done well to lose weight but are left with sagging skin! The Promax Lipo equipment used at Changes is able to target needy areas with success – and we have client testimonials and Clinic photos to prove it! Ultra some cavitation produces low frequency ultrasound which targets the membrane of a fat cell, causing it to vibrate and disintegrate. Vacuum is used to further disturb and dislodge the cells which are then passed out through the lymph system. Radio frequency energy then targets the sub-dermal fatty layer where it is converted to heat causing cell destruction.

All in all, ridding you of unwanted fatty tissue in targeted areas If you're exercising and dieting, then you'll produce even better results!

However, for the body conscious but time-poor amongst us who just want a very quick fix, then may be the Aqualyx fat injection could be your chosen method of body contouring This injectable solution liquefies a fat cell which is then eliminated naturally as you urinate Our results show success on thighs, stomach, knees, buttocks, back and is particularly popular for neck & chin!

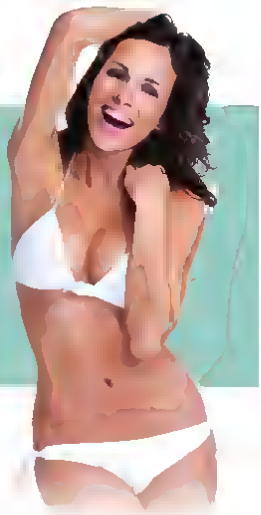
So, if you're after combination weight loss or simply want to be back and enjoy your treatment whilst your practitioners rids you of unwanted fat, contact Changes Clinic of Excellence on 02392 382000 or info@changesclinic co uk for more information

"**Monthly payments** let me have my anti-wrinkle injection now and I was surprised that the **cost** was **less** than I expected, **only** £180"

MF July 2013

"The whole process was **amazing,** I felt in safe hands with the **Doctor** in a clinic environment"

LR, August 2013



Our most popular Non-Surgical treatments

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- Lip Augmentation
- Non-surgical Face Lift
- Facial Peels

Our most popular Surgical treatments

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- Liposuction
- Nose reshaping
- Tummy tucks
- Eye bag/lid removal
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Fashion & Lifestyle

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Top 5 male grooming trends for 2014

WHILE the style conscious dapper gent is on the rise, grooming 2014 is all about achieving the look naturally says Olivier Bonnefoy, founder of Gentlemen's Tonic

The gentlemen's English grooming establishment has been responsible for grooming over 100,000 men across all of their establishments since it was founded in Mayfair in 2005.

Take a look at the top 5 male grooming trends for 2014 below

1. Under Cover

Camouflage is the new black when it comes to covering up those grey hairs. Subtle hair tinting which gives a more natural, blended look is in demand. For the majority of our clients it's about delaying the signs of ageing rather than eradicating them. What's important is that the colouring enhances the overall appearance in the most subtle way without attracting any comment.

2. Wide Eyed

Women have long known the power of eye contact as a valuable communication skill and it seems that us gents are now waking up to the benefits. Demand for eye opening treatments including semi-permanent eyebrow tints, eyebrow threading and waxing has increased substantially during 2013 with bookings remaining strong. Natural but tamed is the request when it comes to eyebrows.

3. Performance Grooming

We are witnessing an increased demand for grooming services which enhance certain sports and leisure pursuits. This includes leg waxing for keen cyclists and all over body hair removal for swimmers. In addition, hair styling lends itself to a very neat stylised fashion but which incorporates the practical issue of manageability. This extends to the growth of hair sculpting and styling products to achieve that neat controlled look.

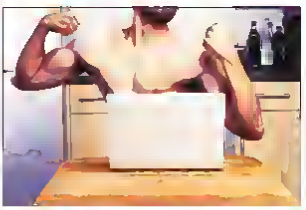
4. Beyond Movember

Where once the end of Movember meant the removal of the moustache, we're finding that our clients, particularly the younger males, are getting attached to their facial hair and instead requesting a neater, more classic look. As a result of the moustache taking on a year round role, we expect Movember moustaches to be bigger and wilder, making an even bigger statement.

5. The Rise of the Action Man

Strong masculine movies have always had an influence on men's styling and we expect 2014 to be a blockbuster year when it comes to the superhero look. With X Men Days of Future, the Amazing Spider Man 2, 300 Rise of an Empire, Captain America and Transformers 4 all showcasing in 2014, we're expecting the classic neat hair and barber style to take on a tougher look. Clipped sides, hint of a moustache and beard, healthy glow to skin.

How to avoid an online dating disaster



WITH Christmas firmly out of the way and the January blues setting in, many of us will no doubt be looking ahead to the next big calendar event of the year to cheer us up – Valentine's Day.

However, for those of us who are single and looking for love, February 14 may not actually be that cheerful and finding yourself the only singleton amongst loved up friends can certainly be disheartening.

Paul Fox, author of Dating.com – a guide to 21st Century dating, says that there is no need to panic. '21st century dating brings with it many new ways to meet Mr or Mrs Right, though it is important to precede with caution and follow my top tips to avoid an online dating disaster.'

Don't judge a book by its cover

The age old saying is certainly true when it comes to online dating. With so much choice out there, it's little wonder why everyone will want only their best mug shot online to tempt others. However, for those less fortunate than some (and with access to the latest photo editing software), it's not uncommon to find that an image online isn't really a true reflection of the person sitting behind the monitor. If Mr Right only has his abs to show you online, then it's quite certain he's got something to hide – be aware.

Talk it out

There was once a time when the average singleton would go to their local bar or similar in a bid to meet a potential partner. However, a combination of busy lives and a lack of time has meant that online dating has taken the need to leave the house to meet people a thing of the past. That said, in the digital age of instant text-based communication, it's still essential to converse properly prior to meeting someone. A quick 'let's meet I'm horny' exchange should set the alarm bells ringing – so talk it out and make sure you're meeting the right person.

Don't be too picky

Of course we all have an ideal person in mind when it comes to finding someone to spend time with, and online dating makes whittling down the potentials a little easier than before. However, don't be tempted to go into too much detail as to what and who you're looking for. A brunette is nice enough, but stating that you need to find a brunette who listens to Elton John whilst driving an Alfa Romeo may lead to your inbox being empty for quite some time. Remember, treat your profile as a trailer for the full movie and you'll have more to talk about when you do meet that significant other.

Tell your friends

Bad dates always happen, regardless of the platform you use to get one in the first place. Telling your friends who you're with and where will help you get out of a potential date disaster. If in doubt, your friend can always give you that 'emergency' call or text, giving you a good reason to get out of an uncomfortable situation quickly.

Build an offline network

Online dating is just one of the many different ways you can find love, but avoid a dating disaster by building your offline network too. Asking family, friends and colleagues if they know of anyone suitable for you may lead to a chance encounter with someone special. Love really can happen when you least expect it.

Horoscopes

10th - 16th January
Horoscopes from Kimi



Aries 21 March - 20 April

Most people cannot mind read but you have the habit of expecting this. This week you need to be clear about your needs and to communicate what they are in a straightforward manner. You may think you are being diplomatic but this could be misinterpreted as being moody so tread carefully and all will be well.

Taurus 21 April - 21 May

Your financial worries may not have completely disappeared but they are beginning to show signs of resolution this week which makes you breathe a sigh of relief. Try not to let your insecurities affect the emotional areas of your life. The key is in the word 'insecurity' - you are more highly thought of than you think!

Gemini 22 May - 21 June

There will be a long awaited resolution this week to some thorny problem. You are about to enter a new phase in your life. You can approach it with gusto since this week very little can go wrong. If you are single then this could be a good week for romantic dinners and liaisons.

Cancer 22 June - 22 July

This week you will need to do a little soul searching. It is time for you to stop procrastination and truly own up to how you feel about others. Don't be afraid of getting hurt. Sometimes relationships come to a natural end and if someone disappears from your life this may be for the best in the long run.

Leo 23 July - 22 Aug

There could be some prickly customers surrounding you over the next few days. Keep your cool and just steer away from the controversial topics of religion, politics and money and all will be well. No, you will not be seen as sitting on the fence but as someone who is a good listener and possible future friend.

Virgo 23 Aug - 23 Sept

Let he who is without sin cast the first stone! Try not to listen to gossip this week but if you can't help it, then whatever you do don't repeat it, or you could end up being the one who gets blamed. Worse still it is likely to be untrue! Keep your counsel and your job.

Libra 24 Sept - 23 Oct

By focusing on your spiritual needs this week rather than the purely physical you will find great comfort. Money does make the world go round but remember to use another cliché: all that glitters is not gold. Our relationships with others, a higher being or our environment will give true meaning to our lives.

Scorpio 24 Oct - 22 Nov

If single, you need to dress to impress this week as it could be a great week for flirting, dating or entering into relationships. Now I am not suggesting that you will meet the love of your life but certainly you could meet with someone who turns out to be a not too unattractive distraction over the next few weeks.

Sagittarius 23 Nov - 21 Dec

You may be thinking of signing up for a mini marathon or perhaps getting a physical check up. This is a great week for tackling health issues both on a diagnostic and a preventative level. If you share your troubles and your activities with a friend the former will be halved and the latter prove to be more fun!

Capricorn 22 Dec - 20 Jan

Relationships could prove difficult this week. Remember to err is human to forgive divine. Your nearest and dearest may bring you to breaking point this week but try to follow this tenet and you will bring about a lasting closeness that is altogether on a different plane. And remember you would not be angry if you did not care.

Aquarius 21 Jan - 19 Feb

You may well be feeling a little sad and lonely this week and dare I say it a little sorry for yourself. Be a little reflective and think of all the blessing you have and you will then be able to put things into perspective. There cannot be light without shade and this is just one of those inevitable periods.

Pisces 20 Feb - 20 March

This week try to spend some quality time at home so that you can recharge your batteries and be careful when voicing your opinions. Once said it cannot be retracted so be very careful before sounding off this week. You set impossibly high standards and although you may be able to live up to them others may not.

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A lasting legacy - Winter Olympic Games

FOLLOWING the golden summer of 2012 there was as much emphasis on the legacy of London 2012 as on the Games themselves and it has become the buzzword of the decade so far. But how does this continuing legacy apply to the Winter Olympic Games? With the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics taking place from 7th to 23rd February 2014, will the Olympic movement be able to build on their legacy plans for long term changes and will we see a marked increase in skiers and boarders on the Russian slopes by 2020? To predict the future, we need to gauge the success of previous host cities to see how Sochi can secure their Olympic legacy for the future.

• Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy: 1956

The Italian resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo hosted the 1956 Winter Olympics and was propelled into the limelight as the first Games to be televised to an international audience. After the Olympics, the resort became a magnet for skiing celebrities, sports personalities and big name stars keen to be seen on the slopes. Its Olympic legacy continues to this day with a number of themed ski tours, including the spectacular Olympia ski tour, which follows the Olympic run down to Rumerlo, where the Olympic flame burned. There is also the long Vitelli piste, which was host to the Olympic giant slalom and has since become a dedicated slow-ski area. For over 20 years the Olympia delle Tofane piste has hosted the Women's Alpine Skiing World Cup and, in doing so, has helped Cortina to remain at the forefront as a world class ski resort. This season there will be a new piste on the south-western slopes of Col Druscié, which will be dedicated to female skiers and is to be named after Toni Sailer, who won three Gold medals at the Cortina Winter Olympics.

How much.

Stay 7nights B&B at the centrally located 4* Hotel Ambra in Cortina, with prices starting from £809 per person, based on 2 adults sharing, including return flights and transfers.

• Innsbruck, Austria: 1964, 1976, 2012 (YOG)

2014 marks half a century of Olympic heritage since Innsbruck, the capital of the Austrian Tirol, first hosted the Winter Olympics in 1964. It was a mere 12 years later in 1976 that the Olympic flame returned, after the unexpected decision by the people of Denver not to host the Games. The IOC had to find a quick replacement and Innsbruck soon became the obvious choice, with a proven track record as organiser in 1964. Building on their legacy, Innsbruck became the first city to host the Olympics for a third time in 2012, with the inaugural Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG). It was thanks to its continual preservation of existing venues, some of which were first used in 1904, and have since been upgraded to state of the art facilities, that Innsbruck was chosen. Anyone can try the Olympic bobsleigh run at Igls, have a go on the cross-country trails in Seefeld or ski the Patscherkofel, where most of the downhill action took place. Re-designed in 2003 by esteemed London-based architect Zaha Hadid, the Bergisel Ski Jump Stadium has become one of Innsbruck's most popular tourist attractions and stands out as a symbol of Innsbruck's continuing Olympic heritage.

How much

Stay 4 nights B&B at the 5* Grand Hotel Europa in Innsbruck, with prices starting from £491 per person, based on 2 adults sharing, including return flights to Innsbruck and private transfers.

• Nagano, Japan: 1998

At the time, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president declared the Nagano 1998 Winter Olympics to be the best organised Winter Games in Olympic history, and it was the first Games to use a dedicated website to provide real-time results and information. At the same time the IOC launched the official olympic.org website and, utilising the internet as a means of communication, helped spread the message and bring the world's attention to mainland Japan as a winter sports destination. Snowboarding had its debut as an official Olympic sport at the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics, and curling returned to the Games programme. The Asama bullet train from Tokyo to Nagano was completed in time for the 1998 Winter Olympics, reducing the journey time to just under 80 minutes. The 10-day Nagano Ski Safari covers the resorts of Hakuba, the Olympic venue for ski jumping and Alpine skiing, and Nozawa Onsen, the venue for the biathlon events, as well as a ride on the Bullet train to Tokyo.

How much?

A 10 night holiday in March costs from £1675 per person based on 2 sharing, including 4 nights B&B at the 4* Phoenix Hotel in Hakuba, 3 nights B&B at the 3* Kuriya Ryokan in Nozawa Onsen and 2 nights room only at the 3* Shiba Park Hotel in Tokyo. Price includes return flights with British Airways and a 5-day Japan East rail pass.

• Salt Lake City, USA: 2002

In 2002 the capital of Utah, Salt Lake City, hosted the 19th Winter Olympic Games and it became one of the most successful Games in history, entering the record books for more than its sporting achievements. Viewing figures worldwide reached the 2 billion mark, whilst the venues packed in the largest crowds ever for an Olympic Winter Games, a record that still remains today. Financially the Games raised more money with fewer sponsors than any other previous event, leaving a surplus of $40million which was used to create the Utah Athletic Foundation, the body responsible for maintaining and operating many of the remaining Olympic venues. The legacy of the Winter Olympics is still very much apparent and the Utah Olympic Park is well worth a visit for a do-it-yourself Olympic experience. You can take a ride on the Comet Bobsled, with a pilot, reaching speeds of 80mph-go head first down the Rocket Skeleton ride at 50mph, try curling or have a go at ice skating. This season Park City is tying in their Olympic legacy by hosting several Olympic qualifier events, held in the resort prior to the Sochi Games. In December, there will be the Bobsled & Skeleton World Cup, as well as the Luge World Cup and Nordic Olympic Trials. In January, there will be the Freestyle Ski World Cup in Deer Valley Resort and the Sprint U.S. Grand Prix. This year also sees the 50th anniversary of skiing and snowboarding at Park City.

How much?

Stay 10 nights B&B at the 3+* Park City Peaks in Park City, with prices starting from £1100 per person, based on 2 adults sharing, including return flights and resort transfers.

• Vancouver, Canada: 2010

As the largest city to ever hold the Winter Games, Vancouver is continuing to reap the rewards from being an Olympic city thanks to its carefully planned legacy. Olympic villages were constructed in Vancouver and Whistler and improvements to the Sea-to-Sky highway greatly improved the journey between the venues. Within the city, transport was improved by the addition of the new SkyTrain cars and diesel-electric hybrid buses. The construction of new facilities, including the Richmond Olympic Oval, the Vancouver Olympic Centre and the Whistler Sliding Centre, has helped get more people into sport, whether it's local teenagers heading to the skating rink or tourists testing their nerves on the skeleton or bobsleigh. Visitors to Whistler can further experience the 2010 Winter Olympics by taking a Whistler Olympic venue tour, ice-skating outdoors at the former medal ceremony venue, the Whistler Olympic Plaza, or trying Nordic skiing or biathlon at the Whistler Olympic Park. On the mountain, visitors can feel the need for speed down the Dave Murray Downhill, where they held the Men's Downhill, Super G, Giant Slalom and Slalom events, or experience the thrill of the bob sleigh and skeleton track at the Sliding Centre.

How much?

Stay 7 nights room only at the 4* Crystal Lodge in Whistler, with prices starting from £1229 per person, based on 2 adults sharing, including return flights and resort transfers. Add a city stay in Vancouver at the 3* Listel Hotel Vancouver, with prices starting from £35 per person, per night.

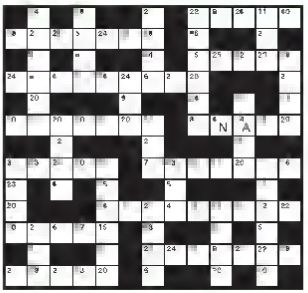
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Brain Gym

Crossword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Last week's solutions

K	L	D	R	B	A	C	P	E	G	V	H	W	
F	S	Z	J	U	Y	X	M	N	O	Q	I	T	

Wordsquare

L	D	I
D	G	E
S	D	O

Give yourself ten minutes to find as many words as possible using the letters in the grid. Each word must use the central letter and at least 3 others - and letters may be used only once. You cannot use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns, but verb forms ending in 's' are permitted. There is one 9-letter word to be found.

How you rate

10 words - average;
15 words - good;
20 words - very good,
25 or more - excellent.

Last week's solutions:

reap, repe, crept, epin, inept, intercept, pectin, preen, peer, penpe, pent, percent, pert, peter, pinit, petite, pern, petter, pethe, pence, per, pence, pinner, pine, pint, preen, prent ce, pince, pinnne, innri, reciept, recipe, repent, rep ns, rjue, rijen, trip, tripe.

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Lead part of the play—and that's the truth (4)
3. Ammonite plant to sell in zeal variety (6)
6. Strains the affected person will give himself (4)
9. See 17 Across
11. Another stock market speculation – to control the rate of cloth rig? (12)
13. These will show approval (6)
14. Provide with phys cal cover (6)
17 & 9 Ac. What the doctor with no respect for his patient may be doing (8, 4, 4)
20. Newspapers maybe, for travelling attendants (6)
21. Box for a p ece of the rigging (4)
22. Net allowing the current deputy to mount up (9)
23. Describing part of the Kalahari Desert (4)

Down

1. Those competing in it would wear running kit. Jumpers would be out of place (4–4)
2. Red transport belonging to me (7)
4. Stir up a stratagem about nothing (6)
5. This sturdy mould provide a gloomy tone (10)
8. Quite monster is a fiend at heart (5)
7. Assess the charge (4)
10. Superficially covering too much bett ng? (10)
12. Edward takes in unsettled in strictly nontrolled in movement (8)
16. One who falls for the tourist (7)
16. The answer is a lemon (6)
18. The way to defeat the East (5)
19. The man who is unable to get to the service would be (4)

Quick Clues:

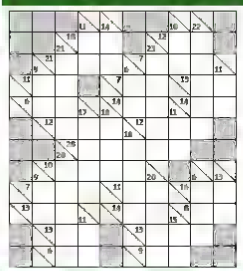
Across

1. Small inlet of the sea (4)
3. Bass (6)
9. Eminence (4)
9. Fling (8)
11. Self-contradictory (12)
12. Awning (8)
14. Lethargy (6)
17. Impolite (12)
20. Regain (6)
21. Dam (4)
22. Lengthened (8)
23. Brink (4)

Down

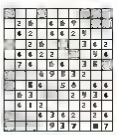
1. Pursuers (6)
2. Papal government (7)
4. Involve (6)
5. Make up (10)
9. Once more (5)
7. Orderly (4)
10. Examination (10)
12. Pickle (6)
16. Advance (7)
18. Elusive (6)
18. Ass (5)
19. Prevalent (4)

Kakuro



Fill in the white squares with numbers 1 to 9. Each horizontal block must add up to the number in the shaded square to its left, and each vertical block to the number above. Numbers may be used once in each block.

Last week's solutions



Scribble pad

Sudoku

Fill in the grids below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

Last week's solutions > From top to bottom: Simple, Intermediate, Difficult

Simple

	3		2			6	9	
		4		1	9		3	7
8	9				4			2
5	1				2	4		
	8	2		4				9
		3					5	8
3			4		6		2	1
4	2		9			7		
		6			8		4	

Intermediate

9	6					7		5
				8	1			3
3		4			5			
		3				2	5	9	7
	7			9				
5	4	9	7			3		
			9			2		8
		8		3	8			
2			4				7	9

Difficult

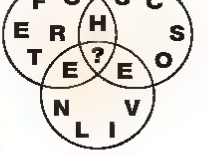
		7		6				
	9		1					
3	8				7	6		
6	1					8		5
		9				3		
5		8					2	6
		2	3				1	8
					2		6	
			4		9			



Last week's solutions. CRYPTIC Across 1 Shipwrights 9 Nutshell 10 Ferns 11 Onset; 12 Sarkans 13 Mainsail 15 Allure 18 Truth e; 20 Ot en; 22 Okaja, 23 Stroid up. 24 Penetrating. Down 2 Hates, 3 Kiwifru 4 Ne ish 5 Gifts, 9 Terrain; 7 nfi mmat on 8 Seismograph 14 Brocade 16 Look-out 17 Teaser 19 Snide 21 Laden. QUICK Across. 1 Thought esa 9 Dungeon 10 Merge, 11 Lodge 12 Getting 13 Stress, 16 Reason 18 Enclose 20 Enter 22 Crime. 23 Unusual. 24 Investments. Down. 2 Honest. 3 Useless, 4 Honest; 5 Limit 6 Strife 7 Add essence, 8 Leading ne e 14 Rushes 15 Execute; 17 Result; 19 Obese; 21 Trust.

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



Last week's solutions

The letter represented by the question mark is L. Carroll, Pullman, Rowling - all popular children's authors.

Alphamuddle

Rearrange the letters in the grid B to make five words that read both across and down. Five letters have been placed to start you off.

	A				
			O		
M					
					N
		E			

A

B	O	U	S	T
S	T	A	L	M
B	O	O	N	E
F	A	M	S	O
T	E	N	U	S

B

Last week's solutions. Fiend, Igloo, Elbow, Noose, Dowel.

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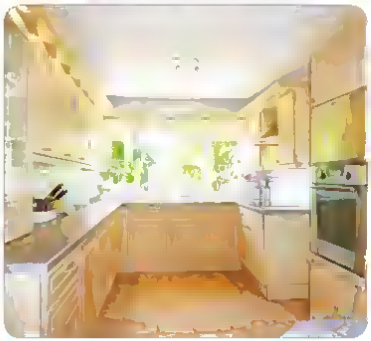
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Useless gadgets gathering dust



IT'S ALMOST a Christmas tradition to receive a present that will never make it out of the box.

In fact, Brits already own millions of pounds worth of gadgets that are hardly ever used.

Fondue sets, chocolate fountains and bread makers are amongst the pricey gadgets languishing in kitchen cupboards, shows research from AA Home Membership.

Nearly nine out of ten respondents confessed to owning at least one gadget. Chocolate fountains were the least used item; a huge 74% said they've used theirs once a year or less. Fondue sets (70%) and cocktail fountains (63%) round-off the top three most useless appliances.

In contrast, electric tin openers, fruit corers and milk frothers were both the cheapest and most used items. Toasted sandwich makers were the most popular item with almost half of households (47%) owning one.

Nearly half don't think these sorts of gadgets are good value for money, while a quarter say they regret purchasing one because they've never used it.

Helen Brooker, head of AA Home Membership said: "Most people own at least one appliance or gadget they barely use. It's not until you clear out your cupboards, or try to find space for new Christmas presents that you realise how much stuff you actually have – and a lot of it is still in the box.

"Many items on the list were once really popular, but not for very long. Fondue sets used to be a 'must-have' – now every charity shop must have at least one on their shelves!

Mrs Brooker added: "Gadgets can be useful if there's a particular task you struggle with, though you'll often realise it wasn't that difficult in the first place!"

Number of British property millioniares climbs by a third in 2013



CONTINUED strong demand for prime residential property throughout 2013 has created 92,985 more property millionaires in Britain over the past 12 months, according to the latest research from property website Zoopla.co.uk.

The total number of British property millionaires now stands at 393,127, up 31% compared to this time last year, with a high concentration in London and the South East as a result of strong house price growth at the top-end of the property market. As 2013 draws to a close, 1.4% of British homeowners will finish the year as property millionaires.

61% (239,703) of all Britain's property millionaires can now be found in London. Limited supply of prime property in the capital has pushed the value of a further 57,120 London homes over the £1 million mark in the last 12 months, creating 156 new property millionaires in the capital every day throughout 2013.

The exclusive borough of Kensington and Chelsea is home to the highest number of property millionaires totaling 41,393 (17% of the capital's total), despite being the smallest London borough covering just 12km². Westminster (40,087), home of such famous Monopoly addresses as Mayfair and Park Lane, and Camden (23,873) round out the top three London boroughs with the most property millionaires.

Outside London, 21,028 more property millionaires were created in the South East during the past year, bringing the total to 82,014. The highest proportion of property millionaires outside the capital can be found in the affluent Surrey area of Virginia Water (GU25) where 32% of homes are now worth over £1 million. Beaconsfield (HP9) and Chalfont St Giles (HP8) come in second and third respectively for having the highest proportion of million pound homes. Wales is home to the fewest property millionaires in Britain, numbering just over 1,000 in total but still up 24% on 2012.

Lawrence Hall of Zoopla.co.uk said: "While Government schemes such as Help to Buy have concentrated popular attention on the lower rungs of the property ladder this year, there's been a hive of activity propelling house price growth at the top-end of the market. As more and more British properties climb past the million pound level, the impact of a possible Mansion Tax would be wide reaching and risk impacting a significant number of British homeowners both at the top of the market and on the lower rungs of the property ladder."

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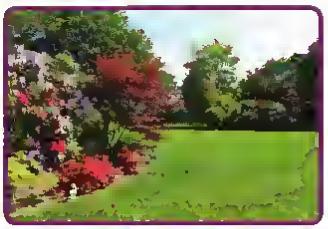
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CRAIGWEIL PRIVATE ESTATE £895,000

An impressive detached residence situated on a large double plot believed to be in the region of one acre approx 400 yards from the beach. G.F.H. leaded light style glazing entrance hall reflitted gf ll bathrm triple aspect lounge large dual aspect sun room, hobbies room, dining room study/gf ll bedrm with en suite shower rm kit/breakfast rm utility area with laundry room, garden room, galleried landing 3/4 double bedrooms, refitted shower room double garage with workshop/storage rm carport, large level garden with parking for several vehicles, superb secluded rear garden amounting to almost 3/4 s of an acre with tennis court, summer houses and garden shed. EPC RATING D





FORD £795,000

A detached cottage style house set in approx two acres of ground offering superb sweeping rural views. The property has potential for further development if required. Cloakroom, entrance hall/study, dual aspect living room, dining room, good size kitchen, separate utility room, master bedroom with en suite shower room, two further bedrooms, second shower room, detached triple garage with studio/office over, heated swimming pool and hot tub, 2 timber garden store. EPC Rating E



ALDWICK £675,000

Spacious & interesting attached property situated in a small private marine estate with access to the beach. The property which is of basalt finish, some refurbishment comprises the West wing of approx half of the original detached house. G.F.H. & solar panels, majority dble glazing. Impressive dual aspect open plan living rm plus sep. dining area, sun rm, kit/breakfast area, shower rm, first floor kitchenette, master bed with en suite shower rm, 2 further bedrms, bathrm, dble garage and good sized grnds. EPC RATING E. Further 3 bedroom adjoining flat/annexe now available. EPC RATING D



ALDWICK BAY ESTATE £670,000

A spacious detached house situated in quiet cul-de-sac of private marine estate within 100 yards of the private beach. The current owners have carried out a comprehensive programme of extension and modernisation. G.F.H., U.P.V.C. double glazing, fascias & soffits, cavity wall insulation, cloakrm, lounge, dining rm, sitting rm, kit/breakfast rm, master bedrm with en suite bathrm, four further bedrms, second bathrm, shower rm, balcony, integral garage and gardens including a secluded courtyard garden with heated swimming pool. EPC rating is D



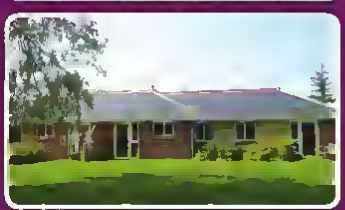
CRAIGWEIL-ON-SEA £425,000

A very well presented luxury apartment situated on the first floor in landscaped gardens with direct access to the beach. A good sized lounge with sep dining area both offering views over the garden to the sea, sun balcony, master bedroom with sea views & en suite shower room, two further double bedrooms, bathroom, fitted kitchen, garage and delightful communal gardens. EPC Rating C



ALDWICK £319,950

A detached bungalow situated in a cul-de sac within 400 yards of bus services. Cloakroom, spacious L shaped living room, kitchen, two bedrooms (one with separate study/potential dressing room), bathroom, integral garage and gardens including a South facing rear. EPC Rating D



ALDWICK £130,000

A one bedroom close care apartment in the grounds of the Royal Bay care and nursing home, purpose built to be elderly user friendly with many safety features and the availability of any level of assistance from the care home. The property has been recently refurbished with new carpets, replacement shower room, refurbished kitchen and an internal redecoration. Gas c.h., double glazing, living room and a communal laundry room. EPC rating is C

Motors

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Missing logbook? Give that used car a miss, says HPI

DON'T PART with any cash for a used vehicle without a logbook. That's the message from HPI to car buyers. Used car information expert HPI has seen a rising number of customers fall prey to dodgy sellers passing on vehicles without a logbook, otherwise known as the V5C, leaving them vulnerable to a number of scams. HPI warns buyers that they must ensure the logbook is with the car before parting with any cash, otherwise the vehicle could be hiding a multitude of sins. Conducting a vehicle check, such as the HPI Check is the best way to be protected against any nasty surprises.

"We've seen a number of buyers going ahead with a vehicle purchase without having seen the logbook for the vehicle," explains Phil Peace, Operations Director for HPI. "This is an enormous risk. Buyers who don't see the logbook are missing vital information about the car, such as confirmation of the seller's name and address.

"Logbooks are an integral part of verifying a car's identity and ownership. If a seller claims to be waiting for one in the post, the buyer should wait until the seller has it before continuing. It might be frustrating to have to wait a little longer, but knowing the full details about a car is crucial – if it turns out to be stolen then they will lose the car and the money, so it pays to be patient."

The HPI Check includes a mileage check against the National Mileage Register as standard, now with over 100 million mileage readings. HPI also confirms whether a vehicle is currently recorded as stolen with the police, has outstanding finance against it or has been written-off, making it the best way for consumers to protect themselves from fraudsters looking to make a fast profit. In addition, the HPI Check offers a £40,000* Guarantee in the event of the information it provides being inaccurate, offering added financial peace of mind to used car buyers.

Phil Peace concludes, "Whilst they are not proof of ownership, logbooks are key in the verification process of buying a vehicle. If a logbook is not available without very good reason, buyers should avoid the risk and walk away. Always conduct an HPI Check to verify whether that dream purchase could be a nightmare on wheels with something to hide."

HPI's 5 top tips for buying a used vehicle:

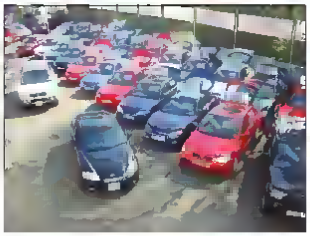
One – Location. If you're buying privately, make sure you view it at the registered keeper's address (as shown on the V5C/logbook).

Two – Provenance. Always check the history of the car. One vital check the buyer can do is to find all the VIN/chassis numbers on the vehicle to make sure they match each other, and then use the HPI Check to ensure they tally with the registration number of the vehicle.

Three – Documents. Check the vehicle's V5C/logbook. Stolen V5C documents are currently being used to accompany cloned vehicles but the HPI Check includes a unique stolen V5C document check as standard. This will confirm whether or not the document is one that the DVLA have recorded as stolen. The vehicle should also be accompanied by a service history and MOT certificates if the vehicle is over 3 years old – make sure you see these too.

Four – Price. Know the car's market value. No genuine seller will want to lose money on their sale. If you are paying more than 30% below the retail market value, then be on your guard.

Five – Payment. Don't pay with a substantial amount of cash, particularly if the car is costing you more than £3,000. Some cloners will take a bankers draft as part payment, because the cash part is sufficient profit without ever cashing the bankers draft. Most crooks selling cloned cars would rather walk away from a sale than take a payment that could be traced back to them. Despite strong advice to buyers to pay via the banking system, HPI still hear of many buyers who go on to pay in cash and subsequently find out that the car is a clone, and that they've lost both their money and the vehicle. HPI plays an active role in working with ACPO's Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service to help solve vehicle crime, and is the only vehicle provenance check provider to include clone cover within its guarantee. If the buyer follows HPI's buying advice, this can provide up to £40,000 financial reimbursement in the event of the car not being everything it seems – including a clone.



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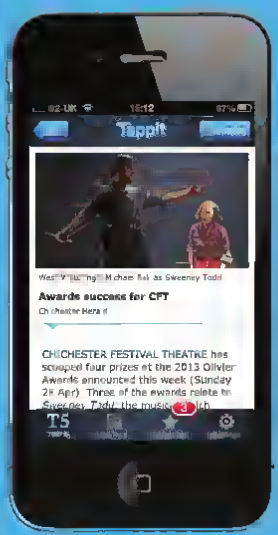
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Sunday 16th February	Portsmouth Guildhall
Sunday 23rd February	Old Thorns Manor Hotel, Liphook
Sunday 9th March	Portsmouth Marriott
Sunday 16th March	Grand Harbour Hotel, Southampton (NEW)
Sunday 23rd March	The Holiday Inn, Titchfield
Sunday 13th April	Bournemouth Marriott (NEW)
Sunday 11th May	The Royal Marines Museum, Southsea
Sunday 18th May	The Grand, Brighton
Sunday 1st June	Old Thorns Manor Hotel, Liphook
Sunday 8th June	The Basingstoke Country Hotel (NEW)
Sunday 6th July	Cams Hall, Fareham
Sunday 13th July	The Concorde Club, Eastleigh
Sunday 31st August	Portsmouth Marriott
Sunday 14th September	The Solent Hotel & Spa, Whiteley
Sunday 28th September	Portsmouth Guildhall
Sunday 5th October	Old Thorns Manor Hotel, Liphook
Sunday 12th October	Grand Harbour Hotel, Southampton (NEW)
Sunday 19th October	The Royal Marines Museum, Southsea
Sunday 26th October	The Holiday Inn, Titchfield
Sunday 2nd November	De Vere Venues New Place, Shirrell Heath

More dates being added all the time. See website for up-to-date list.



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Sport

Football

Ladies dealt points blow

CHICHESTER CITY LADIES were dealt a hammer blow last week through being deducted six points for fielding an ineligible player in the early part of the season.

Chichester City Ladies were sitting top of the South West Combination League going into the Christmas break with a game in hand over league favourites Swindon Town. The mistake occurred through an administration error by club officials through a failure to complete the appropriate paper work. The verdict was reached after a lengthy personal hearing where by first team management Matt Wright and Clive Stubbs confessed to the clubs mishap and pleaded to the league to be lenient in their decision.

Potentially the club could have been awarded a 12 point deduction, a loss of goals and a £250 fine. Regardless of this Matt Wright still believed this was a harsh punishment. He said "We never deliberately tried to gain an unfair advantage over our opponents, as a club we pride ourselves on our sportsmanship and we felt it was harsh for the league to award any punishment as effectively it was an administration error."



The side are now four points off of the league leaders with a game in hand. The decision incensed and riled the players who are now more determined than ever to prove they can regain their rightful place at the top of the table. Captain Hannah McNamara said: "We have been undefeated since March 2013, we will dig our heels in, grit our teeth and climb back up!"

This Sunday offers a rest bite from the league with Chichester playing Enfield in the second round of the FA Cup at Oaklands Park 2pm kick off.

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Sussex County Football League Tables

Division One

	Team	P	PTS
1	EAST PRESTON	18	50
2	LITTLEHAMPTON TOWN	19	38
3	EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN	19	37
4	HORSHAM YMCA	20	34
5	HASSOCKS	18	34
6	CROWBOROUGH ATHLETIC	19	31
7	DORKING WANDERERS	20	30
8	LINGFIELD	19	29
9	SELSEY	20	29
10	PAGHAM	20	26
11	NEWHAVEN	18	25
12	CHICHESTER CITY	20	24
13	RINGMER	18	22
14	ST FRANCIS RANGERS	17	21
15	RYE UNITED	16	20
16	SHOREHAM	16	19
17	LANCING	18	19
18	ARUNDEL	17	14
19	HAILSHAM TOWN	18	10
20	WORTHING UNITED	18	4

Division Two

	Team	P	PTS
1	EASTBOURNE UNITED AFC	16	41
2	LOXWOOD	18	41
3	HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN	19	38
4	BROADBRIDGE HEATH	17	35
5	LITTLE COMMON	20	33
6	BEXHILL UNITED	19	29
7	STEYNING TOWN	16	27
8	WICK & BARNHAM UNITED	17	25
9	AFC UCKFIELD	16	25
10	MILE OAK	17	25
11	WESTFIELD	17	22
12	OAKWOOD	17	15
13	STORRINGTON	18	14
14	RUSTINGTON	19	14
15	SEAFORD TOWN	17	13
16	MIDHURST & EASEBOURNE	17	12
17	SALTDEAN UNITED	16	7

Division Three

	Team	P	PTS
1	EANGNEY WANDERERS	8	22
2	IFIELD	11	21
3	ROFFEY	10	18
4	SIDLESHAM	11	18
5	FERRING	9	16
6	BILLINGSHURST	12	13
7	HURSTPIERPOINT	10	13
8	ROTTINGDEAN VILLAGE	11	11
9	UCKFIELD TOWN	8	10
10	CLYMPING	10	10
11	SOUTHWICK	10	6

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